Manitoba Conservation

Annual Report
2004-2005

Manitoba

Conservation Manitoba

Rapport annuel 2004-2005

Manitoba

106-01438/

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable John Harvard, C.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2005.

This report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

The Department is working hard to connect with and reach out to Manitobans in the delivery of its programs and services. By working together with and responding to the needs of the public we can ensure that we meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainability together.

In this year's Annual Report, the Department has provided detailed information regarding the continued implementation of the requirements of *The Sustainable Development Act* both within the Department itself and across government. By providing this information to the public we are assuring their participation in this important exercise to make government more sustainable in its activities.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation are dedicated to providing effective service to Manitobans and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the many important activities that take place on a yearly basis around the province.

Respectively submitted,

Stan Struthers

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of Manitoba Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2005.

Manitoba Conservation is committed to the delivery of a variety of environment and natural resource programs and services to Manitobans in an efficient and effective manner. This Annual Report provides an overview of the various activities undertaken by the Department throughout the 2004/05 fiscal year. The Department continued to emphasize the sustainability and conservation of Manitoba's natural resources and environment in its activities and services. Highlighted below are some of the activities undertaken during the past year:

- The Department continued to grow Manitoba's network of protected areas, including the protection of the Bell and Steeprock Canyons under the Forest Act, the designation of Little George Island and Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserves, the establishment of the Manigotogan River Provincial Park, the extension of the Duff Roblin Park Reserve and the addition of private lands owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada to the network for the first time.

- The Provincial Cottaging Initiative got underway in 2004/05 with the sale or lease of cottage lots using a public draw process. Two draws were held in 2004/05, and the initiative is now ongoing.

- As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements were completed to campsites at Stephenfield, Watchorn, New Nutimik, Paint Lake, Hecla and Blue Lake through electrification. In addition, water service was also installed on many sites at Stephenfield and Hecla.

- Although the summer of 2004 was marked by record-breaking low temperatures and high rainfall amounts, an average visitor season was experienced in provincial parks.

- Expanded regulations were introduced to ensure all parks users can expect a safe and peaceful provincial park experience.

- Environmental regulations were strengthened in the areas of livestock and petroleum storage.

- The Department supported the East-side (WNO) First Nation Council and negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the WNO first nations. The Department also participated in various co-management initiatives with aboriginal communities, particularly the West Region Tribal Council and the Opaskwayak First Nation.

- The Department participated in the final year of a two-year program, "Operation CleanFarm", to collect and safely dispose of obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides. The two-year program resulted in the collection of over 92,000 kgs of old chemicals from farms.

- Continued to support programs that protect species of plants, birds and wildlife so that they are there for the enjoyment of future generations. Protected species included the endangered plant, the western silvery aster; the piping plover shorebird and the polar bear.

Enclosed please find detailed information on the Department's operations for the 2004/05 fiscal year.

Respectively submitted,

Don Potter
Deputy Minister

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MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2005

FIGURE 1

ORGANIGRAMME
EN VIGUEUR LE 1ER AVRIL, 2005

FIGURE 2

Ministre
Stan Struthers
Sous-ministre
Don Potter
Conseil consultatif en matière de ressources
Comité consultatif sur les réserves écologiques
Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable
Comité consultatif de la zone de gestion de la forêt Spotted Lake
Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Comité consultatif sur les espèces en voie de disparition
Comité d'appel du Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et le Nunavut
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et la Saskatchewan
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et l'Ontario
Conseil d'arbitrage de la Direction des forêts
Commission de protection de l'environnement
Corporation manitobaine de gestion des déchets dangereux
Sous-ministre adjoint Opérations régionales D. Cook
Région de l'Est
Région du Nord-Est
Région d'Entre-les-Lacs
Région de l'Ouest
Région du Nord-Ouest
Région de la Rivière Rouge
Opérations de l'environnement
Services de soutien régional
Services de gestion de l'élevage
Programmes des feux de forêt
Sous-ministre adjoint Programmes des ressources D. Watton
Parcs et réserves naturelles
Direction des forêts
Direction de la faune
Direction des terres domaniales
Direction de la prévention de la pollution
Gestion de la qualité de l'air
Géomatique et renseignements
Sous-ministre adjoint Gérance de l'environnement S. Schofield
Approbations relatives à l'environnement
Gestion durable des ressources
Relations avec la communauté autochtone
Sous-ministre adjoint Corporate Services M. Bastin
Service financier
Services des terres
Technologie de l'information
Soutien administratif
Service de bibliothèque
Infographie
Centre de distribution des produits

INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this Annual Report for Manitoba Conservation, 2004-05 provides insight into the many and various activities undertaken by the Department over the past fiscal year.

Manitoba Conservation has a mandate to protect, conserve, manage and sustain the development of the Province's forest, wildlife, Crown land and park land resources; to protect the integrity of the environment and to ensure a high level of environmental quality and public health for present and future generations.

Through the integrated management of these resources, the Department is the lead agency responsible for providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Manitobans and visitors to the Province. The Department is also a major contributor to the economic development and well-being of the Province, particularly at the community or regional level, through resource-based harvesting operations which it supports and through cooperation with other departments in supporting their efforts in such areas as agriculture, fisheries and tourism. The Department is also responsible for continued Treaty and Aboriginal rights of access to certain natural resources. Providing for basic resource needs for subsistence users, and protecting people, property and resource values from wildfires and the adverse effects of other natural occurrences are the other major roles of the Department.

The Department is responsible for the administration of legislation and regulations pertaining to the environment and public health; participating in the approval, licensing and appeals for development activities; administration of waste reduction and pollution prevention activities and monitoring of environmental quality. The department works to ensure compliance of land, resource, environmental and public health legislation through education, voluntary action, negotiation, audit and enforcement.

HIGHLIGHTS

Parks and Natural Areas/Protected Areas

- Manigotagan Provincial Park was designated.
- Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area was established.
- 2 ecological reserves were established: Little George Island; and Jennifer and Tom Shay.
- Manitoba committed to work with First Nations, Ontario and Canada to nominate as a UNESCO World Heritage site, a large tract of boreal forest on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.
- As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, 175 campsites were electrified and 50 basic sites were converted to electrical/water service sites at various campgrounds across Manitoba.
- Despite low temperatures and high rainfall in 2004, our provincial parks witnessed an average visitor season.

Cottage Lots Initiative

- In 2004, two public draws were held for 576 cottage lots (including 152 new lots) as part of a Government initiative to offer 1,000 new cottage lots to Manitobans.
- A total of 2,652 cottage lot applications were received.
- Lands branch activity was a key to this initiative.

Regional Operations

- Three provincial parks were particularly busy. An estimated 165,000 vehicles entered Grand Beach; 32,000 entered Hecla; 268,000 entered Bird's Hill, where over 45,000 people attended the Winnipeg Folk Festival.
- Major improvements were made to the public water systems at Caddy Lake, White Lake, Falcon Lake and Paint Lake.
- The 2004 Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill was very active: 103 bears were handled and Churchill District staff responded to 302 occurrences.
- Illegal guiding activities were detected and prosecuted in the Western region as were illegal fish sales in the Winnipeg area.
- Long-term joint investigations into the illegal killing and sale of big game animals and the illegal trade of antlers were concluded in collaboration with Saskatchewan.
- Staff continued to implement a Bovine TB eradication strategy in the Riding Mountain area.
- A Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment for the orphaned mine site at Sherridon was completed and meetings were held in the community to discuss the results.
- Public Health Inspectors participated in enforcing the new *Non Smoking Health Protection Act*. Although a number of warnings and charges were issued, the overall compliance rate was very high.
- Staff of the Environmental Livestock Program implemented regulatory amendments including new requirements for manure application, monitoring of source waters and registration of manure storage facilities that predate permits.

Forestry

- A wood supply analysis and a technical report for the Duck and Porcupine Mountain areas were completed based on a forest lands inventory developed in partnership with Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd.
- Public timber auctions were expanded in 2004, resulting in additional opportunities for small business and $132,000 in additional revenue for Manitoba.
- A new Oriented Strand Board (OSB) hardwood timber classification and associated timber dues rate of $3.15/ m^3 was implemented.
- The new provincial Softwood Field Chip timber classification and dues formula will encourage continued utilization of unmerchantable and small diameter softwood.

- Two new Forest Practices Guidebooks were produced to provide direction for management of Forest Roads and Brush Disposal.
- Work began with the First Nation Limited Partnership (FNLP) to pursue major hardwood products development in the Interlake and southeast side of the province. A suitable industry partner is being sought.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

- Population trends of various species in 2004/05:
  - Upland Game Birds - stable;
  - White-tailed deer – increased;
  - Black Bear – stable or increased;
  - Moose – remained low;
  - Elk – decreased slightly (due in part to TB control program around Riding Mountain);
  - Caribou – stable or increased; and
  - Wolverine – stable or increased.
- The demand for non-resident alien hunting licences continued to be strong. Approximately 2,000 bear, 1,600 deer, 270 caribou, and 130 moose licences were purchased in 2004.
- Manitoba Conservation participated, for the fourth year, in an Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba and increased activities for Chronic Wasting Disease.
- The expanded Problem Beaver Control Program, consisting of summer removal and winter subsidy components, was successfully implemented for the fourth consecutive year.
- Payments from the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program decreased in 2004/05 due to increased prevention activities.
- Multiple stakeholder consultations were conducted for changes to the Problem Black Bear Management Policy and Procedure directives.
- Over 175,000 Canada geese staged inside the City of Winnipeg in the fall of 2004. A management strategy for urban geese is being developed to address the many concerns associated with this recent phenomenon.
- Marten are the most valuable and numerous furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2003/04 increased to 20,059 animals from the previous year's 17,897.
- A provincial Piping Plover Recovery Action Group was created to direct future stewardship and recovery activities. A preliminary provincial recovery strategy was drafted in 2004.
- A Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou was drafted for discussion with First Nations and stakeholders.

Pollution Prevention

- Over 92,000 kg of obsolete chemicals were collected from farms through the second and final year of "Operation Clean Farm".
- The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) provided $2.97 million to support programs and projects that targeted development, implementation and promotion of environmental innovation and sustainable development. This included over $1.4 million for projects supported under the SDIF Open Category; $545,000 for waste reduction and pollution prevention initiatives under Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund; and $200,000 for environment-related projects involving youth on a voluntary basis, under the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) Program.
- Composting programs were promoted in partnership with Resource Conservation Manitoba and The Composting Council of Canada, and by hosting Manitoba's first organic waste conference.
- Scrap metal recycling was enhanced in Northern Manitoba and Nunavut through a partnership with the local communities of Gillam, Churchill and Rankin Inlet, Natural Resources Canada, the Government of Nunavut and North Central Development.
- Seven new Used Oil Collection Depots were established and public service was improved.
- Through participation on the Western Canada Electronic Product Stewardship Task Group, the Pollution Prevention branch developed a set of principles to guide development of a producer responsibility system for electronics.

- The establishment of the Manitoba Chapter for the Canadian Green Building Council was supported, to provide a forum for information dissemination regarding green building practices appropriate for Manitoba.

Remote Sensing and Geomatics

- Earth observation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) of the forest initiative continued to provide satellite mapping for the Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- Land mapping services continued to provide cadastral and geomatics services across the government.

Lands

- Management and control of Crown lands as governed by the Crown Lands Act and wild rice under *the Wild Rice Act.*
- Supported activities within the Northern Flood Agreement, Treaty Land Entitlements and First Nations land settlement programs.
- Continued to maintain complete and accurate records of Crown land inventories, encumberances and dispositions.

Sustainable Resource Management

- Amendments were introduced to *The Wildlife Act.*
- The national development of an Environmental Sustainability Framework for Canada was co-chaired by the branch.
- Numerous co-management initiatives were directed with aboriginal communities.
- 1,350 licenses and permits for resource tourism activities were issued.
- The first Provincial Sustainability Report was drafted.
- The Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Round Table was supported.

Environmental Assessment and Licensing

- 40 development proposals and 32 license alterations were reviewed.
- 224 pesticide permits were issued.
- 228 inspections were conducted.
- A license for Winnipeg's West End wastewater treatment plant was issued, and a license was drafted for the North End wastewater treatment plant.
- Licenses were drafted for the Wuskwatim hydro projects subsequent to public hearings.
- The environmental assessment review process for the Floodway expansion project was conducted and the branch participated in the public hearings.
- Participation in West Nile Virus response activities was maintained, and included the issuance of several Ministerial mosquito control orders.

Aboriginal Relations

- Consultation processes with First Nations affected by the Wuskwatim hydro projects were conducted.
- The WNO First Nations Council was supported and a memorandum of understanding with the WNO First Nations was negotiated.
- The Aboriginal Relations Branch participated in co-management initiatives with aboriginal communities, particularly with West Region Tribal Council and Opaskwayak First Nation.
- An educational brochure titled, 'Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples' was published.

Fire Program

- In 2004, Manitoba experienced a very slow wildfire season due to higher than normal snowfall conditions and an abundance of spring rainfall: 234 fires burned 26,004 hectares.
- Due to these conditions, Manitoba was able to export resources to assist other Canadian fire agencies in need.

POINTS SAILLANTS

Direction des parcs et réserves naturelles/zones protégées

- Le parc Manigotagan est devenu parc provincial.
- La Zone protégée des canyons Bell et Steeprock a été créée.
- Deux réserves écologiques ont été créées : l'île George Island, et Jennifer and Tom Shay.
- Le Manitoba s'est engagé à travailler avec les Premières nations, l'Ontario et le Canada pour nommer un site au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, une grande superficie de la forêt boréale située sur la rive est du lac Winnipeg.
- Dans le cadre de l'initiative provinciale de développement des emplacements de camping, l'électricité a été installée dans 175 terrains de camping et 50 sites de base ont été convertis en site offrant les services d'eau et d'électricité dans différents terrains de camping dans la province.
- Malgré les basses températures et les précipitations importantes de 2004, nos parcs provinciaux ont connu une saison touristique conforme à la moyenne.

Initiative concernant les lotissements pour chalets

- En 2004, deux tirages publics ont été tenus pour 576 lots pour chalets (y compris 152 nouveaux lots) dans le cadre d'une initiative gouvernementale pour offrir 1 000 nouveaux lots aux Manitobains.
- On a reçu un total de 2 652 demandes de lots pour chalets. L'activité de la Direction des terres domaniales a été une des clés de cette initiative.

Division des opérations régionales

- Trois parcs provinciaux ont été particulièrement achalandés. D'après les estimations, 165 000 véhicules sont allés à Grand Beach, 32 000 à Hecla, 268 000 à Bird's Hill, où plus de 45 000 personnes ont assisté au Winnipeg Folk Festival.
- D'importantes améliorations ont été apportées aux systèmes d'approvisionnement public en eau à Caddy Lake, White Lake, Falcon Lake et Paint Lake.
- Le programme Alerte aux ours polaires 2004 a connu une activité intense : le personnel du district de Churchill a rapporté 302 incidents concernant des ours et a dû intervenir directement dans 103 cas.
- Des activités de guide illégales dans la région de l'Ouest, ainsi qu'une opération illégale de vente de poisson dans la région de Winnipeg, ont été repérées et ont fait l'objet de poursuites.
- Conjointement avec les forces de l'ordre de la Saskatchewan, une enquête de longue haleine concernant la chasse et la vente illégales de gros gibier a été menée à terme.
- Du personnel a continué de mettre en œuvre une stratégie d'éradication de la tuberculose bovine dans la région du Mont-Riding.
- Une évaluation du risque pour la santé humaine et l'environnement sur le site de la mine orpheline à Sherridon a été complétée et des réunions avec la communauté ont eu lieu pour discuter des résultats.
- Des inspecteurs de la santé publique se sont chargés de veiller à l'application la nouvelle *Loi sur la protection de la santé des non-fumeurs*. Même si les autorités ont lancé un certain nombre d'avertissements et d'inculpations, la loi a été très largement respectée.
- Le personnel du Programme de gestion écologique du bétail a mis en place des modifications apportées à la réglementation comprenant de nouvelles exigences en ce qui concerne l'épandage de déjections, la surveillance des sources d'eau et l'enregistrement des installations de stockage de déjections construites avant l'introduction des permis.

Direction des forêts

- Une analyse des ressources financières et un rapport technique ont été achevés pour la montagne Duck et des collines Porcupine, basés sur l'inventaire des terres forestières effectué en partenariat avec la société Louisiana-Pacific Canada.
- Les ventes aux enchères publiques de bois d'œuvre ont été augmentées en 2004, offrant du même coup de nouvelles occasions d'affaires aux petites entreprises et 132 000 $ de recettes supplémentaires à la Province.

- Une nouvelle catégorie de panneaux OSB pour le bois de feuillus a été mise en place, avec des tarifs de droits de coupe s'élevant à 3,15 dollars/m^3.
- La nouvelle catégorie provinciale de copeaux de bois de résineux produits sur place ainsi que les nouveaux droits encourageront l'utilisation durable du bois de résineux non marchand et de faible diamètre.
- La Direction a produit deux nouveaux guides des pratiques forestières qui donnent des conseils sur l'entretien des chemins forestiers et l'élimination des broussailles.
- Le travail a commencé avec le First Nation Limited Partnership (FNLP) dans le cadre d'un important projet de développement de produits du bois de feuillus dans les régions d'Entre-les-Lacs et du Sud-Est. On recherche un partenaire industriel compétent.

Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes

- Tendances démographiques de différentes espèces en 2004-2005 :
  - gibier à plume sédentaire : stable;
  - cerf de Virginie : en augmentation;
  - ours noir : stable ou en augmentation;
  - orignal : reste bas;
  - wapiti : faible diminution (en partie due au programme de contrôle de la tuberculose bovine près aux environs du Mont-Riding);
  - caribou : stable ou en augmentation;
  - carcajou : stable ou en augmentation.
- Les demandes de permis de chasse pour non-résidents étrangers sont demeurées fortes. Environ 2 000 permis de chasse à l'ours, 1 600 permis de chasse au cerf, 270 permis de chasse au caribou et 130 permis de chasse à l'orignal ont été délivrés en 2004.
- Conservation Manitoba a participé, pour la quatrième année, à un Plan d'action pour la gestion de la tuberculose bovine au Manitoba et à l'augmentation des activités pour la maladie du dépérissement chronique.
- Pour la quatrième année de suite, des subventions pour le piégeage des animaux en été et en hiver ont été accordées dans le cadre du programme élargi de contrôle des castors.
- Le montant des indemnités versées pour le Programme d'indemnisation des dommages causés au bétail par les prédateurs a diminué en 2004-2005, grâce à l'augmentation des activités de prévention.
- De nombreuses consultations d'intervenants ont été engagées pour des changements de directives sur les pratiques et les procédures relatives au contrôle des ours noirs.
- Plus de 175 000 bernaches du Canada ont fait un arrêt dans la ville de Winnipeg à l'automne 2004. Une stratégie de gestion des bernaches du Canada en zone urbaine est en cours d'élaboration pour répondre aux nombreuses préoccupations suscitées par ce phénomène récent.
- L'espèce à fourrure la plus abondante et la plus rentable pour les trappeurs au Manitoba est la martre. En 2003-2004, les trappeurs ont capturé 20 059 martres, comparativement à 17 897 l'année précédente.
- On a créé un groupe d'action provincial pour le rétablissement du pluvier siffleur afin de canaliser les futures activités de gestion et de rétablissement de cette espèce. Une stratégie préliminaire de rétablissement à l'échelle provinciale a été ébauchée en 2004.
- Une stratégie de rétablissement du caribou des forêts boréales a été ébauchée pour des discussions avec les Premières nations et les différents intervenants.

Direction de la prévention de la pollution

- Plus de 92 000 kg de produits chimiques obsolètes ont été recueillis dans le cadre de la deuxième et dernière année de l'« opération ferme propre ».
- Dans le cadre du Fonds des innovations de développement durable (FIDD), la Direction a versé 2,97 millions de dollars afin d'appuyer des programmes et des projets visant le développement, la mise en œuvre et la promotion de l'innovation environnementale et du développement durable. Le gros des subventions se répartit comme suit : plus de 1,4 million de dollars pour des projets présentés dans la catégorie ouverte du FIDD; 545 000 dollars pour des initiatives de réduction des déchets et de prévention de la pollution dans le cadre du Fonds pour la réduction du volume des

déchets et la prévention de la pollution; 200 000 dollars pour des projets d'environnement auxquels participent des jeunes bénévoles dans le cadre du programme de la Brigade des jeunes environnementalistes.

- En collaboration avec Resource Conservation Manitoba et le Conseil canadien du compostage, la Direction a fait la promotion du compostage en accueillant la première conférence manitobaine sur les déchets organiques.
- La Direction a favorisé le recyclage de la ferraille dans le Nord du Manitoba et au Nunavut en établissant des partenariats avec Ressources naturelles Canada, le gouvernement du Nunavut, North Central Development et les collectivités de Gillam, Churchill et Rankin Inlet.
- Sept nouveaux dépôts de récupération de l'huile usagée ont été créés et le service au public a été amélioré.
- En prenant part aux activités du Western Canada Electronic Product Stewardship Task Group (groupe de travail de l'Ouest canadien sur la gestion des produits électroniques), la Direction de la prévention de la pollution a élaboré un ensemble de principes pour aider à mettre en place un système de responsabilisation des fabricants de produits électroniques dans l'Ouest canadien.
- La Direction a contribué à la création de la section manitobaine du Conseil du bâtiment durable du Canada. Celui-ci offre un lieu d'échange qui permet la diffusion de renseignements sur les méthodes de construction écologiques appropriées au Manitoba.

Télédétection et géomatique

- L'initiative de L'observation de la Terre pour le développement durable des forêts (EOSD) continue de fournir une cartographie par satellite pour le Protocole de Kyoto, les changements climatiques et la biodiversité.
- Le service de cartographie continue de fournir des services cadastraux et géomatiques au gouvernement.

Direction des terres domaniales

- Les terres domaniales sont gérées et contrôlées dans le cadre de la *Loi sur les terres domaniales*, et le riz sauvage dans le cadre de la *Loi sur le riz sauvage*.
- Des activités sont appuyées dans le cadre de la Convention sur l'inondation des terres du Nord, des droits fonciers issus des traités, et d'autres programmes se rapportant au règlement des revendications territoriales des Premières nations.
- La Direction continue de garder à jour les dossiers complets des inventaires, des obérations et de la disposition des terres domaniales.

Direction de la gestion durable des ressources

- Des modifications ont été apportées à la *Loi sur la conservation de la faune*.
- La Direction a coprésidé, à l'échelle nationale, à l'élaboration d'un cadre pour un environnement durable au Canada.
- Elle a administré des initiatives de cogestion avec des collectivités autochtones.
- Elle a délivré 1 350 licences et permis pour des activités touristiques axées sur la nature.
- On a ébauché le premier rapport provincial sur la durabilité.
- La Direction a appuyé la Table ronde Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawim.

Direction des évaluations environnementales et des licences

- La Direction a examiné 40 propositions de développement et 32 demandes de modification de licences.
- Elle a délivré 224 permis d'utilisation de pesticides.
- Elle a effectué 228 inspections.
- Elle a délivré un permis pour l'installation d'une usine de traitement des eaux du quartier West End de Winnipeg, et a ébauché une licence pour l'usine du quartier North End.
- Elle a préparé des licences pour les projets hydroélectriques de Wuskwatim à la suite des audiences publiques.
- Le processus d'examen des évaluations environnementales pour le projet d'agrandissement du canal de dérivation a été mené et la Direction a participé aux audiences publiques.

- La Direction a continué à participer à la lutte contre le virus du Nil occidental, notamment en préparant plusieurs arrêtés ministériels relatifs à la lutte contre les moustiques.

Division des relations avec les Autochtones

- La Division a participé au processus de consultation des Premières nations concernées par les projets hydro-électriques de Wuskwatim.
- Elle a appuyé le conseil des Premières nations Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawim et a négocié un protocole d'entente avec ces Premières nations.
- Elle a participé à des initiatives de cogestion avec des collectivités autochtones, en particulier avec le West Region Tribal Council et la Première nation Opaskwayak.
- Elle a produit une brochure intitulée : *Fishing, Hunting and trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First nation Peoples* (droits et responsabilités des Premières nations en matière de pêche, de chasse et de piégeage).

Programme de prévention des incendies

- En 2004, le Manitoba a connu une saison très clémente en ce qui concerne les feux de forêt, situation attribuable aux chutes de neige plus abondantes que de coutume et aux fortes pluies printanières. 234 feux ont brûlé 26 004 hectares.
- Bénéficiant d'une saison calme dans ce domaine, le Manitoba a pu expédier des ressources vers d'autres provinces pour aider les organismes de lutte contre les incendies dans le besoin.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, computer, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's Salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1
12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	28.8	1.00	29.4	(0.6)	
Total 12.1(a)	**28.8**	**1.00**	**29.4**	**(0.6)**	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs which are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set out in the Department's role and mission statement, advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department, provide policy direction for departmental programs, co-ordinate departmental communications activities and initiatives, and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2
12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	538.2	9.00	506.7	31.5	
Other Expenditures	136.1		197.0	(60.9)	1.
Total 12.1(b)	**674.3**	**9.00**	**703.7**	**(29.4)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to a decrease in discretionary spending including travel.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services between the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship including administrative, financial, workplace safety and health, equipment warehouse, library and public information services. Information Technology Service are also shared with the Department of Water Stewardship and Human Resource services are provided through a service shared with other departments.

Administrative services include fleet vehicle coordination, office accommodation and parking administration, records management and coordination of departmental efforts at French language services and compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Financial services include: processing of revenue and expenditures in accordance with legislative, government and departmental requirements; preparing financial forecasts and budgetary estimates; asset management; and overall comptrollership support.

Library services are provided with the assistance of Environment Canada to support staff from that organization, Manitoba Conservation, Water Stewardship and the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with educational institutions in Manitoba and other libraries and current information on topics within the mandate of these organizations are made available to staff and the public.

63 requests under ***The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** were actioned.

The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and in keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French language services. Translation of documents and the Website continues. The department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.

Risk Management Program assists staff to identify situations that could disrupt programs or result in unexpected losses, assists evaluating hazards with programs and facilities, and assists developing and prioritising risk control to reduce or eliminate hazards. Liability incidents involved payment of $25,666 and claims for property damages were reported with values totalling $59,538. Total building/property evaluations reported for insurance purposes were $120,811,000.

The Departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and Fire Operations Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, it becomes the logistical support base for all equipment. Disposition of fleet and Department vehicles was administered.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	816.6	13.00	820.4	(3.8)	
Other Expenditures	788.6		746.2	42.4	
Total 12.1(c)	**1,605.2**	**13.00**	**1,566.6**	**38.6**	

Financial Services

Budget Management Section manages and maintains controls on the departmental expenditures and revenues for two departments, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. This Section also has the responsibility of coordinating and preparing the departmental quarterly expenditures, revenues and capital cash flow reports and yearly preparation of the departmental Expenditures and Revenue Estimates. The Section controls and administers the departmental asset management component and also provides training in various financial processes of the departments.

During the 2004/2005 fiscal year the Contract Management Section administered over one hundred and thirty nine (139) new contracts for construction, engineering and environmental consulting and fee for service agreements for a total of $9,388,766. In addition the section handled seventy-four (74) contracts carried over from previous years. The section also provided advice to program managers on contract technicalities, tendering policies, bid opening practices, insurance and bonding requirements. The Section completed the Manual on Contracting and Tendering Policies to be utilized by Department of Conservation staff. The Section also completed training sessions for the Manual.

Licensing Section managed a network of 842 private and 127 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, park vehicle entry, trapping and various other licences and permits. For the period April 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005, total sales were 503,812, for combined revenue of $11,498,610. Vendor activity for the same period included 50 new appointments, 54 discontinuances, 9 suspensions and 18 reinstatements. A total of 777 private vendors are in rural areas.

Where licence availability is limited, draws to allocate hunting opportunities for Manitoba residents are conducted each year. A multi-level priority licence draw system was used; of 7,720 applicants, 4,820 were awarded licences.

Revenue Management section is responsible for managing the collection, security, deposit and reporting of revenue for over 50 revenue streams for the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The section also provides assistance with the delivery of various programs including the Cottage Lot Draw and Seasonal Camping. The section's Winnipeg Cashier's Office handled 6,500 direct sales totaling $2,3700,000 and processed over 15,600 remittances from customers and departmental field offices totaling $29,900,000. FineLine Solutions processed over 8,700 Conservation invoice payments totaling $4,370,000, allowing for prompt deposit of funds and electronic updating of client records. Payment options available to these clients included: in person at Conservation offices and most financial institutions, bank machine, on-line and telephone banking. Credit cards were accepted at 45 locations, of which 37 also accepted debit cards.

The Public Information section is responsible for providing information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the Departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service is provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail. The section responded to the following requests for information and assistance:

- 43,450 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers
- 44,400 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line of which 8,937 where handled directly by the line.
- 72,639 in person requests
- 5,308 requests through the Internet
- 6,308 information packages mailed.

The Public Information section also supplied all regional and district offices with the majority of publications that are distributed by the Department of Conservation, and provided program assistance to branches such as scheduling tours of the Narcisse Snake Dens, accepting and recording Seasonal Camping and Cottage Lot Draw applications and funds.

Table AF.4

12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,420.1	28.33	1,408.8	11.3	
Other Expenditures	336.1		399.8	(63.7)	
Total 12.1(d)	**1,756.2**	**28.33**	**1,808.6**	**(52.4)**	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 34 competitive appointments and 38 term appointments extensions. Guidance and advice were provided on Departmental Employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers: there were about 103 appointments to Departmental Employee positions. There were no selection appeals.
- Assisted in developing and implementing the Youth Employment (Green Team) Program, employing about 325 youths in rural Manitoba.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Provided guidance and advice to management on 190 labour relations issues, including appropriate discipline, and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. There were 17 formal grievances.

Classification

- Classification activity included 96 position classification reviews completed. There was 1 classification appeal. Initiated the ongoing review of the Environmental Officer Series, including development of new classification specifications and evaluation of the 113 Environmental Officer positions in Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.

Pay and Benefits

- Processed pay and benefits for about 2,100 staff.
- Provided guidance and advice on pay administration issues.

Organizational Review and Development

- Provided guidance and advice on implementation of organizational changes.
- Department employees attended 203 training courses in a variety of subject areas.

Employment Equity

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.
- Liaison with schools and organizations to promote careers within the department.
- Participation at a number of Career Fairs.

Renewal Initiatives

- Developed and implemented the Public Health Inspector Bursary Program in response to the growing needs to successfully recruit and retain Public Health Inspectors in the Province of Manitoba.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons with Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2002-03	2118	100	1422	67.1	696	32.9	382	18.0	46	2.2	37	1.7
2003-04	2411	100	1547	64.2	864	35.8	390	16.2	45	1.9	36	1.5
2004-05	2109	100	1315	62.4	794	37.6	395	18.7	39	1.8	23	1.1

Table AF.6
12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,049.3	19.00	989.3	60.0	
Other Expenditures	112.7		115.6	(2.9)	
Total 12.1(e)	**1,162.0**	**19.00**	**1,104.9**	**57.1**	

Information Technology Services

The Branch provides internal information technology service and expertise, including systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Conservation has embarked on program to provide up to 1,000 cottage lots for sale in Manitoba. The IT Branch completed the development of a custom web site to include cottage lot availability and draw information, applications, and interactive mapping of all the lots.
- Client testing and additional development on the ENFOR package is being conducted. ENFOR is a suite of tools designed to replace an out-dated enforcement/tracking and occurrence reporting system in regional offices. The system will be Intranet-based and available to over 200 Natural Resource Officers and regional staff.
- A major new business application called The Forest Manager was acquired and deployed within the Forestry Branch for the management of their forest harvest and renewal operations. The application was centrally installed and is being deployed to all their regional offices.
- Work is continuing on the development of the web based internet map server in Manitoba to provide forest data for the National Forest Information System (NFIS). The NFIS server is being developed to provide an Internet Web-based system wherein the public can find and review databases on Canada's forests and environmental conditions. Information on forest management practices will include harvesting information, reforestation, forest fires, and related biophysical and environmental indicators. Canadian provinces are currently negotiating a governance strategy for the programs future operation that may include utilization of the NFIS program for hosting other Federal/Provincial geospatial data sets.
- The Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related

databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 6,000 registered users. A new interactive map server is being configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through their web portal.

- The ITS Branch continued development on additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public. Conservation now has over 15,000 active Web pages, managed by a Web Co-ordinator. Additional enhancements were also developed on the internal Intranet side.
- The ITS Branch continued its work on the migration of many application and data base servers to up-graded architectures of software and hardware to comply to the new server operating system standards.
- The ITS Branch conducted software application testing and developed migration strategies to refresh over 700 desktop/laptop computers within the Conservation and Water Stewardship departments. This includes the commencing of testing and certification of over 600 software applications of which over 40 were custom packaged for multiple user distribution.
- The ITS Branch is working with the Licensing Section and Energy, Science, and Technology in the development of an e-commerce solution to provide web based sales of various licence and permit offerings over the Internet for the general public.

Table AF.7

12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,143.4	16.00	1,078.8	64.6	
Other Expenditures	104.7		107.6	(2.9)	
Total 12.1(f)	**1,248.1**	**16.00**	**1,186.4**	**61.7**	

Clean Environment Commission

Under ***The Environment Act***, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-956-7091 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca.

Table AF.8
12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	278.2	3.00	267.0	11.2	
Other Expenditures	219.5		342.4	(122.9)	1.
Total 12.1(g)	**497.7**	**3.00**	**609.4**	**(111.7)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to Floodway Expansion Class 3 hearing costs being billed directly to the Floodway Authority.

Support Services

Computer Graphics

The unit provides Geographic Information System (GIS), Graphic Design and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) services to Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The GIS component of Computer Graphics is responsible for providing expertise in the creation of spatial data, spatial data analyses, and preparation of customized geo-referenced maps. The Graphic Design component produces high-quality informational material required for supporting various programs, policies, and initiatives. Specialised CAD services include preparation of engineering plans for capital works and infrastructure maintenance projects.

The unit received 150 requests for service, of which 149 were completed and 1 is in progress.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Provided mapping service to all program areas in the two departments.

- Provided graphic design, illustration and photographic services to all programs areas through complete publication of several booklets and brochures. Some of the documents that were designed and published are:

  2005 Anglers' Guide, Stephenfield Lake Water Management Plan, Assiniboine Delta Aquifer Management Plan, Hayes River Management Plan, Duck Mountain Provincial Park Management Plan, National Park Proposal for The Manitoba Lowlands, Pollution Prevention Brochure, Protected Areas Informational packages, Park Reservation Services Training Manual and Beach Safety Guidelines and Standards

- Prepared display boards, posters and promotional material e.g., Yurts in Whiteshell Provincial Park, New Cottage Lot Development, Devils Lake, Manigotagon Provincial Park, Heritage Rivers, Chitak Lake Initiative, Atikaki Provincial Park UNESCO Presentation and Protected Areas Initiative displays.

- Maintained and improved the Red River Flood Management System, a web-based decision support system, designed to improve the ability of emergency managers, flood fighters, and valley residents to respond to future flood events.

- Implemented the National Hydrology Model on Manitoba's 1:20000 spatial data. This required a large amount of editing to the existing data to get it into the correct format.

- Provided project management services for the Fisher River and Dunnotar LiDAR (Light Direction and Ranging) projects. The LiDar data for Fisher River will be used for flood modeling and infrastructure improvement. The Dunnotar data will be used in a study of shoreline erosion and it's impact on the local environment.

- Provided Geographic System Support to the Protected Areas Initiative Program. This involved the data creation, topology structuring and map production.

- Implemented and maintained spatial data library for Manitoba Conservation. This involved checking data layers for accuracy, technical integrity and the collection of metadata (vital background information about the data).

- Lead the development of a single watershed layer for Manitoba and a further development of a smart watershed layer for network analysis.

- Redesigned all summer, winter and seasonal-use maps, trail and route maps for Parks and Natural Areas Branch.

- Designed and produced signage and permits for Parks campgrounds.

- Designed various logos and other miscellaneous promotional material e.g. Manigotagon Provincial Park Logo, Drought Tolerant Species Logo, T-shirts, mugs and decal design.

- Continued to provide support to Manitoba Geographical Names Program, to honour war casualties.

- Updated crown land classification codes for use by BLOC Planning Committee and field staff in various departments.

- Supported Water Resources Water Licensing Program, by preparing location plans for the production wells at various towns, farms and industrial operations. Also provided mapping services to support Drainage licensing. Prepared location maps for Environmental Approval Branch as part of newspaper advertisement for public hearings.

- Performed miscellaneous tasks such as the plotting of hydrology data, and mean monthly levels of Manitoba lakes. Designed report covers, charts and graphs for various publications.

- Supported Waterway Maintenance program by preparing engineering plans for the maintenance and refurbishment of water control infrastructure e.g., Buffalo Creek, Catfish Creek, Roblin Drain, Roblin Drain Alternative and Crooked Lake Drain.

- Prepared construction plans for Rosenfeld and Lowe Farm Valley Town Dykes, Grass River Gabiens and Stock Car Road Bridge located two miles west of The Pas.

Table CS.1

12.2(a) Computer Graphics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	400.6	9.00	453.6	(53.0)	
Other Expenditures	26.7		28.9	(2.2)	
Total 12.2(a)	**427.3**	**9.00**	**482.5**	**(55.2)**	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces ***The Surveys Act*** (Part II) and *The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation*, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under ***The Crown Lands Act*** and *The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation* (***The Mines and Minerals Act***), represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an economical survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land conveyance, to ensure a strong cadastral framework for economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. This centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- The Branch placed 75 monuments in the township and parish-lot systems of survey, provided 43 sets of survey instructions, examined 51 plans of survey, tentatively approved 50 plans of survey, approved 43 plans of survey, and responded to 259 information requests. Survey Services provided at no charge 300 marker posts to private land surveyors for the identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system.

- Conversion of survey documents to electronic format continued with scanning and indexing of plans of survey, control survey station descriptions, and surveyors' field notes. The Survey Information Centre continued development of a Field Book Database for users seeking surveyor's field notes. An arrangement with Natural Resources Canada was continued to modify, reproduce and redistribute Canadian Geodetic Bulletin Board Service Digital Information, providing "one-stop shopping" for control survey information.

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions and/or elevations have been determined. Disciplines such as civil engineering, resource management, and land surveying require this network to determine position and elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This is essential to ensure compatibility of all geomatics, navigation, and other spatial information, to permit exchange and merger, seamlessly and economically.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network is integral to Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information. Staff continued upgrading the mathematical positioning of network stations, which now comprises 181 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary stations, to North American Datum (NAD) 1983 co-ordinate values.

- Survey Services continued to promote and advance the Canada-Wide Differential GPS Service (CDGPS), which is an initiative of the Canadian Council on Geomatics run through its Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee. CDGPS is a satellite-based, real-time differential GPS (DGPS) service designed to provide reliable GPS position corrections. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre to 2 metre positional accuracy throughout the Canadian landmass. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications. For more information, visit the CDGPS Web-site at <http://www.cdgps.com/>.

  The required funding for this initiative was approximately $3.61 million distributed over a 5 year period, which started in 1999. Manitoba's contribution was $230,000.00 and for this commitment the department received 32 CDGPS receivers. At the end of the fiscal year 19 of the receivers were in use in the department and another was loaned to Red River College for use in their GIS program. Staff began an evaluation of the initiative to decide Manitoba's participation in an extension of the federal-provincial-territorial agreement until March 31, 2007.

- Survey Services conducted 2 seminars for department staff, which covered coordinate reference systems and basic GPS operations. The training focussed on handheld GPS receivers that are used by department staff for navigation, GIS database population and time tagging. Two presentations were given to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba as part of their professional development seminar series. These presentations were on GPS surveying techniques and spatial referencing systems in Manitoba.

- Discussions were held with the City of Winnipeg on the future of its spatial reference networks. It was agreed to continue discussions on a proposal to assess existing monumentation and develop a plan for the modernization of the networks.

- Staff continued discussions with counterpart agencies in the federal and other provincial governments on (1) the formal adoption of the North America Datum 1983 (NAD 83) as realized by the Canadian Spatial Reference System 1998 (CSRS 98) and (2) modernization of the Canadian Height System for geo-referencing activities.

Survey Services Program

The Program provides land, engineering, and control surveys and related services for acquiring and disposing of land, constructing and maintaining public works, and spatially referencing land-related features and information, including:

- Subdivision, right-of-way, parcel, and easement surveys including the new cottaging initiatives.
- Terrain modelling and contour surveys, including beds of water bodies
- Cross-section and centre-line profile surveys
- Project-specific mapping and engineering control surveys
- Topographical and location surveys
- Cadastral mapping
- Air-photo compilations
- Deformation and subsidence surveys
- Land dimensions, quantities, and spatial co-ordinates
- Administrative boundary plans
- Legal descriptions and title plots
- Structure location certifications
- Land transaction documents

Major client departments included Manitoba Conservation (Lands and Parks and Natural Areas) Transportation and Government Services (Construction and Maintenance, and Land Management

Services), Water Stewardship (Water Branch), Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (TLE Agreement Management Co-ordination, and Community Support Services), Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines (Mines and Petroleum), and Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs (Local Government Support Services, and Water Services Board).

Land description services are offered to municipalities, law and survey firms, and citizens for Crown land reservations, dispositions, and other consents or rights, for such purposes as subdivisions, sales and exchanges, plan cancellations, and closing bylaws. These services include preparation of legal descriptions, calculation of areas, reviews of easement documents, reports on mines and minerals, and preparation of Minister's Orders and Consents.

Survey Services achieved its cost-recovery objective. Surveyors and survey technologists carried out work on 523 projects: 158 land surveys, 15 control surveys, and 350 land descriptions. Noteworthy work included:

- Right-of-way survey of PR 276 across Waterhen Indian Reserve
- Right-of-way survey of PTH 83 between Miniota and Birtle
- Parcel surveys for compensatory lands to the Waterhen Indian Reserve
- Subdivision surveys for the Cottage Lot Program
- Road survey of PR 374 at Netnak Bridge (Cross Lake) for Canada-Manitoba land exchange
- Easement survey on Opaskwayak Indian Reserve
- Parcel surveys of Northern Flood Agreement site selections by Cross Lake First Nation
- Right-of-way surveys for bridges over Red River Floodway

Table CS.2
12.2(b) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461.9	29.00	1,524.1	(62.2)	
Other Expenditures	451.9		451.9	0.0	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,707.0)		(1,570.7)	(136.3)	1.
Total 12.2(b)	**206.8**	**29.00**	**405.3**	**(198.5)**	

1. Increased recoveries were for requests for priority services from Transportation and Government Services and from Conservation for the cottaging initiative.

Distribution Centre

The Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products. Mapping products are sold for across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public; outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- The production of a new product, "Freshwater Fish Poster", has begun this fiscal year. This poster is being developed as a point of sale item that will be marketable across Canada and in the northern United States.

- Lake depth maps for lakes in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been added to the existing line of angling maps available in Manitoba. This addition of these angling maps compliments and expands the sale of mapping products across Canada.

- 33,200 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. Map product sales was down this year throughout Canada, however Map Sales maintained it's ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.

- Air photo products are produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic picture of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920's. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers, mining companies, etc.

- 5,821 aerial photo products were sold to customers in 2004/2005.

Sale of mapping products and the e-commerce site is promoted by advertising in Yellow Pages, *Anglers' Guide*, Travel Manitoba publications, Fishing magazines, and direct marketing to the public through consumer shows and dealer sales calls.

Table CS.3
12.2(c) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	336.9	7.00	307.3	29.6	
Other Expenditures	317.8		316.2	1.6	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(43.1)		(50.0)	6.9	
Total 12.2(c)	**611.6**	**7.00**	**573.5**	**38.1**	

REGIONAL OPERATIONS

Programs and activities are delivered in six Regions: Northwest Region, Northeast Region, Interlake Region, Eastern Region, Western Region, and Red River Region, and supported from Headquarters Operations in Winnipeg, which includes Regional Support Services, Fire Program, Environmental and Livestock Programs. Multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from 59 community-based district and regional offices as well as Headquarters offices in Winnipeg carry out the work.

Programs and services delivered at the community level include:

- Field activities for resource and environmental management,
- Compliance and enforcement activities related to natural resource, public health and environmental legislation,
- Environmental Livestock Program,
- Environmental Programs (includes transportation of dangerous goods, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, hazardous waste and onsite wastewater),
- Operation and maintenance of Provincial Parks, including provision of public safety & security
- Response to environmental and public health emergencies,
- Wildfire prevention and suppression,
- Protection of people, livestock, crops and property from predators and other wildlife.

Regional Support Services

This section provides co-ordination, direction and support to the regions through:

- Provision of staffing co-ordination, training and equipment for field staff, primarily consisting of Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers and seasonal officers.
- Development and maintenance of policies, procedures, guidelines, manuals, forms, data and electronic services to ensure consistent and effective regional program delivery.
- Co-ordination of 24 hour response to environmental incidents, forest fires and resource-law violations.
- Provision of special investigation and forensic services through Special Investigations Unit and Canine Team.
- Provision of leadership, interpretation and guidance on the department's enforcement & compliance activities and liaison between regions, program branches, Water Stewardship, Justice and other federal and provincial agencies.
- Analysis and development of compliance strategies and legislation relating to programs requiring delivery by Operations Division staff.
- Administration and claim evaluation under the Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation Program and administration of the Guide Licensing program.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Implemented an alert system in which officers are automatically notified via email from the RCMP in regards to dangerous or missing persons at large in the province.

- Assisted Parks Branch with the development of enhanced legislation allowing for longer periods of evictions from provincial parks (up to one year) to help deal with increasing rowdyism.

- Produced a Conservation legislation Set Fine Book for Environment Officers and Resource Officers.

- Expanded and improved the Division Intranet site with the addition of the Special Dealers Licence Fish Purchase Record information. This allows officers to better track commercial fishing quota production.

- Participated in the development of a Commercial Fishing Guide, to be distributed to commercial fishers as an information package.

- Assisted in legislative amendments and compliance protocols relating to the *Forest Act, Wildlife Act, Environment Act, Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Act, Public Health Act* and *Non-smokers Health Protection Act.*

- Licensing of hunting guides has remained constant with only minor variations in numbers issued. Licences were issued to 1,482 guides in 2004/05.

- Twenty-four new Park Patrol Officers were recruited from across Canada and were certified to Department standards over 8 days in hospitality, tactical communications, defensive tactics, firearms, and legislation before being hired and assigned to various parks for 17 weeks of employment.

- Four new seasonal Assistant Resource Officers received basic training in Tactical Shotgun, Baton Deployment, and Officer Safety.

- A new initiative was implemented to provide federally mandated Marine Emergency Duties certification to employees required to use boats on the job. Seventy-five officers were trained. Other courses delivered to selected Natural Resource Officers were Glock Instructor/Armorer re-certification and Defensive Tactics Instructor re-certification.

Enforcement

Tables RO.1 through RO.7 summarize enforcement actions undertaken by the department's Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers, and seasonal Resource Officers.

Table RO.1
Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998-99 to 2004-05

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines ($)
1998-99	12	32	7	11,862
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076
2004-05	16	63	45	36,960
Total	**103**	**345**	**196**	**$120,644**

Table RO.2
Environmental Operations Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines($)
The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act			1	
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act	71	11	8	26,667
- Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation				
- Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Product Regulation	38	164	39	49,271
The Environment Act				
- Litter Regulation				
- Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation				
- Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation				
- Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation	17	66	37	5,410
The Public Health Act				
- Dwellings and Buildings Regulation				
- Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation	2	6		1,560
- Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation		4		
The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act				
Municipal By-laws				
Total	**128**	**251**	**85**	**$82,908**

Table RO.3
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass*	816	6	822	0
Cause Disturbance	108	85	193	530
Parking Violations*	117	0	117	0
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	34	32	66	2
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	22	19	41	7
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	17	24	41	6
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	32	7	39	94
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	13	20	33	0
Possess Fireworks	15	17	32	0
Damage Pollute Park Property	15	2	17	2
Fail to Maintain Campsite	11	4	15	2
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	13	0	13	1
Other	6	6	12	1
Total	**1,219**	**222**	**1,441**	**645**

* Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported previous to 2003-04.

Table RO.4
Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	51	9	60
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	58	0	58
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	45	11	56
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	27	23	50
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	32	1	33
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	23	4	27
Hunt for Remuneration / Illegal Sale of Wildlife	14	1	15
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	10	0	10
Equipment Infractions	5	5	10
Bait Infractions	5	4	9
Hunt Out of Season	6	2	8
Abandon/Waste Game	5	1	6
Other	6	5	11
Total	**287**	**66**	**353**

Table RO.5
Common Violations under *Fisheries Act* (Canada), and The *Fisheries Act* (Manitoba)

Offence	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	269	79	348
Licence Infractions	189	144	333
Exceed Limits	121	12	133
Transportation Infractions	30	91	121
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	34	2	36
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	7	9	16
Wastage of Fish	7	2	9
Live Bait Infractions	3	2	5
Other	0	2	2
Total	**660**	**343**	**1,003**

Table RO.6
Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1995-96 to 2004-05

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries*	Parks	Migratory Birds
1995-96	395	741	185	18
1996-97	441	976	173	26
1997-98	421	846	171	9
1998-99	278	965	248	6
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	1,523**	15
2004-05	287	660	1,219***	9

*Includes all *Fisheries Acts* and Regulations found in Table RO.7

**Includes 1267 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04.

***Includes 933 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04.

Table RO.7
Record of Violations Occurring 2004-2005

Acts	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Crown Lands	33	32	65
Dutch Elm Disease	0	1	1
Forest	11	15	26
Fisheries (Canada)	435	161	596
Fisheries (Manitoba)	225	182	407
Highway Traffic	35	27	62
Liquor Control	244	21	265
Migratory Birds	9	8	17
Off Road Vehicle	21	10	31
Provincial Parks	1,219	222	1,441
Resource Tourism Operator	2	1	3
Wildfires	16	16	32
Wildlife	287	66	353
Water Rights	0	2	2
Total	**2,537**	**764**	**3,301**

Total Fines: $336,578.39 for 2004-05
(Includes $36,475.00 in Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass fines not reported previous to 2003-04)

Hunter and Firearm Safety Training

- Manitoba Wildlife Federation administers and delivers the Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program. In 2004 there were about 254 active instructors who graduated 2,336 students.

- Since the program began in 1964, a total of 142,647 students have been trained (Table RO.8). Table RO.9 shows firearm incident statistics, by five-year average since 1964. Table RO.10 provides statistics on firearm incidents and fatalities over the last 10 years. (*Non-hunting incidents* refer to incidents in the home, children playing with firearms, and the like).

Table RO.8
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1992-2004

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1992	2,651	116,881	19
1993	2,685	119,566	41
1994	2,256	121,822	45
1995	2,381	124,203	18
1996	2,115	126,318	11
1997	2,101	128,419	8
1998	1,807	130,226	24
1999	2,068	132,006	15
2000	2,079	134,085	5
2001	1,976	136,061	4
2002	2,191	138,252	7
2003	2,059	140,311	14
2004	2,336	142,647	24

Table RO.9
Firearm Accidents, 1964-2003, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	64
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6

Table RO.10
Firearm Accidents 1992-2004

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1992	12	9	21	1	0	1
1993	5	8	13	0	0	0
1994	4	5	9	1	1	2
1995	9	6	15	0	0	0
1996	6	2	8	1	0	1
1997	2	6	8	0	2	2
1998	4	2	6	1	0	1
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1

Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation

The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, one claim qualified for compensation at $600. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.11.

Table RO.11
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1993-94 to 2004-05

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
1994-95	9	7	$11,850	$1,693
1995-96	3	2	$4,265	$2,132
1996-97	4	4	$9,800	$2,450
1997-98	2	2	$2,250	$1,125
1998-99	7	6	$9,533	$1,589
1999-00	9	6	$5,670	$945
2000-01	7	4	$4,120	$1,030
2001-02	6	5	$5,034	$1,007
2002-03	9	5	$5,716	$1,143
2003-04	3	3	$2,358	$786
2004-05	4	1	$600	$600

Problem Wildlife Complaints

- Polar Bear occurrences were down about 12% from last year's record high, which is still 34% higher than the average of the last five years. Black bear complaints were up approximately 13% from last year creating significant control challenges for department staff. A summary of occurrences by region is presented in Table RO.12.

Table RO.12
Problem Wildlife Occurrences

Species	Region						Total	% of Total
	NE	NW	E	I	W	RR		
Beaver	2	7	43	106	67	54	279	6%
Black Bear	117	161	338	796	243	119	1774	36%
Polar Bear	300	0	1	0	0	0	301	6%
Big Game	1	2	4	133	175	44	359	7%
Wolf	14	8	17	21	56	4	120	2%
Migratory Birds	1	26	15	231	165	25	463	9%
Other	27	14	83	579	595	408	1706	34%
Total	**462**	**218**	**501**	**1866**	**1301**	**654**	**5002**	**100%**

Special Investigations Unit

- Regional investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. The unit assisted regions with investigations into the illegal harvest and marketing of walleye occurring on Lake of the Prairies and the Interlake, illegal antler trade, use of poison to kill wildlife, big game license fraud and the killing of protected species. The unit assisted regions with the preparation, execution and review of various search warrants.

- Through successful covert operations, the unit detected and prosecuted illegal guiding activities in the Western region and illegal commercial activity related to fish sales in the Winnipeg area and concluded a long-term joint forces investigation with Saskatchewan involving the illegal killing and sale of big game animals. The unit also concluded an 18-month undercover operation involving the illegal antler trade in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Turn-in-Poachers and Report Forest Fires Line (T.I.P.)

- The toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076) which is aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 358 calls resulting in 21 prosecutions and 5 warnings. In addition, the toll free line received 57 calls reporting forest fires.

Table RO.13
T.I.P. Calls by Region

	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
Region	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Total
Red River	12	100	1	2	115	0	10	0	10
Interlake	17	56	0	5	78	3	2	0	5
Western	10	94	1	5	110	0	6	0	6
Eastern	10	37	3	23	73	0	0	0	0
Northwest	3	6	1	11	21	0	0	0	0
Northeast	2	4	1	11	18	0	0	0	0
Total	54	297	7	57	415	3	18	0	21

Table RO.14
T.I.P. Calls by Year 1996-97 to 2004-05

	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05
Calls Received	714	640	695	758	568	569	485	406	358
For Information	41	39	24	28	23	18	31	19	21
Calls Actioned	316	302	298	321	204	230	218	235	226
Prosecutions	68	74	74	70	59	40	30	37	21
Warnings	11	16	12	23	37	12	8	2	5

Wildfire Investigation

- Fire investigators investigated 24 human caused fires resulting in eight prosecutions and provided support for ten fire suppression cost recovery chargebacks. Through in house training, an additional 16 Natural Resource Officers were trained to the FI-210 National Standard for Wildfire & Arson Investigation.

Canine Program

- The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the year and across the province. Jake, a Belgian Malanois, worked on a variety of details including roadside check stations, searching for evidence involving investigations of illegal fishing and hunting, tracking individuals who fled from officers and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons. The team was also involved with forest fire investigations, provided instruction in defensive tactics, firearms and Use of Force.

- Public education programs were conducted in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province. Jake and Officer Cameron were certified to Level 2 of Urban Search and Rescue, Specialty Dog (USAR) training. The canine and handler, Natural Resource Officer Tim Cameron, were part of the honour guard used for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) convention in Winnipeg.

Table RO.15

12.3(a) Regional Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,770.0	33.50	1,851.3	(81.3)	
Other Expenditures	947.6		685.3	262.3	1.
Problem Wildlife Control	346.7		365.6	(18.9)	
Total 12.3(a)	**3,064.3**	**33.50**	**2,902.2**	**162.1**	

1. Increase mainly due to increased regional relocation costs and Environmental Emergency Response operating expenditures.

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, Provincial Parks, environmental programs, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery, and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance and enforcement of environment, resource, and health legislation.

Programs and services are provided by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in The Pas, and District Offices at The Pas, Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Grand Rapids, Snow Lake, and Sub-District Offices at Sherridon, Moose Lake and Cormorant.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Enforcement

- Natural Resources Officers conducted patrols to ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations. This resulted in 181 enforcement actions (99 charges, 74 warnings, 6 evictions, and 2 trespass dues). Officers responded to 462 Occurrence Reports, of which 218 were problem wildlife, 168 regulatory and 76 non-regulatory in nature. Officers checked 1,073 licensed hunters, 125 subsistence hunters, 3,969 anglers, 202 commercial fishers, 724 commercial fisher nets, 27 domestic fishers, and 37 domestic nets. There were 11 roadside check stations conducted throughout the region. Staff also conducted 281 timber inspections on 97 cut blocks within the Tolko Harvest areas.

- Public Health Inspectors/Environment Officers conducted 140 Inspections to ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations, and responded to 50 public complaints. This resulted in 3 enforcement actions under the *Environment Act*.

Forestry

- Tolko Manitoba's extension to its 2004 Annual Harvest and Renewal Plan was reviewed. The timber volume approved for harvesting was 420,400 m^3 with an additional 157,030 m^3 approved as contingency blocks. There were 100 Work Permits and 9 Work Permit amendments issued by the Region for Tolko's operations. The Egg Lake Road, Cliff Lake Road and six other forestry roads were decommissioned, and plans for future road closures were discussed with Tolko's staff. Staff also participates on Tolko's CSA Certification Committee and Forest Resource Advisory Committees.

- The Annual Operating Plan for the Chemawawin First Nation/Tolko partnership was reviewed and 60,000 m^3 was approved for harvesting and an additional 29,500 m^3 as contingency.

- Forestry staff coordinated the planting of 80,000 trees, natural regeneration surveys on 134.3 hectares, plantation surveys on 113 hectares and free-to-grow surveys on 313.9 hectares.

Fire Management

- The Region received above average rainfall and this resulted in a quiet fire season. The first man caused fire occurred on May 24 and the first lightning fire started June 28. Total fires for the season were 43, of which 29 were lightning caused and 14 man caused. 62.5 hectares were burnt, with the largest fire being 14.0 hectares at Little Herb Lake near Snow Lake. Fire staff did extensive training and were part of a deployment of fire staff sent to British Columbia.

Provincial Parks

- Improvements were made to boat launches in Clearwater Lake and Grass River Provincial Parks and the construction of a new boat launch facility at Simon House Lake was started. There were 9 additional camping sites constructed in Clearwater Lake at Camper's Cove.

- At Wekusko Falls Provincial Park, roads were graveled and the second suspension bridge was refurbished.

- Two mobile recycling trailers were constructed for Bakers Narrows and Clearwater Lake Provincial Parks and will be put into operation in 2005.

Wildlife

- DNA sampling for woodland caribou, to compare caribou herds, was expanded to include the Grand Rapids area and Norway House Resource Management Area. Staff also collaborated with Saskatchewan Environment on a similar sampling program along the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border.

- In partnership with local First Nations, non-government organizations and Saskatchewan Environment, staff participated at meetings and developed budget proposals for projects designed to increase the moose population in the Cumberland Delta.

- The non-resident big game license allocation review was completed resulting in additional licenses for outfitters in the Region.

- Staff initiated the re-activation of the Game Hunting Area (GHA) 8 Co-operative Moose Management Committee as moose populations in this GHA appear to be in decline. The Committee will identify and evaluate alternative management options to reverse this trend. Staff will be attempting to secure the required financial support to undertake an aerial moose survey.

Lands

- The ongoing administration and sale of cottage lots continued in The Pas, Cranberry Protege, Snow Lake and Flin Flon areas. Two new cottage developments consisting of 46 lots near Cranberry Portage and 8 lots near Bakers Narrows area were designed, surveyed and included in the provincial draw as part of the department's cottaging initiative.

- The management and administration of existing cottage subdivisions (500 cottages), general permits and leases (300) and ongoing sales of Crown land (50) in agricultural and open Crown land also continued.

- There was the continued involvement by staff with many client groups and the public on land use issues in the Region. This included the RM of Kelsey, Town of Snow Lake, City of Flin Flon on cottaging and servicing issues and the Opaskwayak Cree Nation on the proposed Wuskwatim hydro transmission line discussion. There were also numerous other contacts with local governments, industry, non-government organizations and individuals regarding land use issues associated with agriculture, mining, forestry, wild rice, trapping and commercial fishing.

Environment

- The Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment for the orphaned mine site at Sherridon was completed and meetings were held in the community to discuss the results.

- Staff worked with the Town of The Pas on permitting a major Petroleum Contaminated Soil Treatment Facility in The Pas, which facilitated the subsequent clean up of numerous impacted sites in the area.

- Staff coordinated the removal of 31 cows that had perished in the Carrot River near The Pas after breaking through the ice in December 2004.

Table RO.16
12.3(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,178.9	41.15	2,141.6	37.3	
Other Expenditures	718.7		727.7	(9.0)	
Total 12.3(b)	**2,897.6**	**41.15**	**2,869.3**	**28.3**	

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, Provincial Parks, wildlife, forestry, environmental programs, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resource and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Thompson, District offices in Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Narrows, and sub-District offices in Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

Regional staff participated on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, and Norway House Resource Management Boards, Nelson River Sturgeon Co-Management Board, Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board, Wapusk National Park Management Board, Regional Waste Management Reduction Steering Committee and the Northern Waste Committee.

The Integrated Resource Management Team met regularly to evaluate and provide recommendations for Crown land applications, resource-based tourism applications, annual timber harvesting and renewal plans, *Environment Act* proposals, Treaty Land Entitlement selections and other related land or resource plans.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Enforcement

- Natural Resource Officers checked 1,338 anglers, 635 hunters (525 big game, 71 migratory bird, 39 upland game bird), and 133 commercial fishermen. Staff inspected timber operations and most remote lodges, outcamps and tent-camp sites, and monitored campers and day-users in Parks, resulting in 59 Prosecutions, 68 Warnings and 36 Evictions. 283 Timber Permits, 229 Work Permits, 197 Burning Permits, and 18 General Fishing Permits were issued through District Offices.

- Environment Officers/Public Health Inspectors inspected rental accommodations, commercial food establishments, wastewater facilities, waste disposal grounds and contaminated soil remediation sites. Three (3) warnings were issued under the Public Health Act.

Forestry

- There were 4,190,000 trees planted on 2,590 hectares by Tolko and Manitoba Conservation in the Northeast Region in 2004. A total of 2,500 hectares was site-prepared for tree planting in 2005. In addition, 11 hectares of brushing was completed to release softwood from hardwood competition through a contract to the Environmental Youth Centre in Thompson.

- There were five active Timber Sales in the Northeast Region in 2004.

- Manitoba Conservation continues to work with First Nations in assessing the economic benefits from forest management activities. The focus in 2004 was in the Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb First Nation) and Island Lake (St. Theresa Point First Nation) areas.

- Community tree plants occurred in Thompson, Churchill, Gillam and Nelson House. Youth from all four communities participated in the planting of the trees.

Fire Management

- After a summer and fall season of drought, followed by a winter of below normal snowfall, the Northeast Region had the potential for record fire season in the spring of 2004. However, cooler summer temperatures and timely rain combined to keep the fire danger low for most of the season. This resulted in one of the slowest fire seasons on record, which was a sharp contrast to 2003. A total of 146 fires burned approximately 25,650 hectares of forest within the Region in 2004. The first fire in the Region was reported on May 11 with the season coming to a rather abrupt end in mid-August, at least a month earlier than the year previous. Seventy percent of the area burned was located in the Observation Zone and was the result of fires that did not require any suppression action

- The Region experienced one brief period of higher fire activity which occurred in mid-July. Fifty-five (55) new fires were reported over a five-day period with July 14th being the busiest day with 20 new starts. Of the total number, 103 fires were caused by lightning and 35 by human activity. There were no large fires of any significance.

- The slow season enabled both Regional and District staff to accomplish a significant amount of fire training. Overall, 480 casual hire Emergency Fire Fighters were trained and/or recertified in various communities across the region. All department Initial Attack staff completed their national CIFFC (Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre) certification. This certification is a national standard enabling personnel to be deployed to work in other provinces. In 2004, thirteen individuals were sent on an exchange to British Columbia to assist in fire fighting efforts.

Provincial Parks

- At Paint Lake Provincial Park, the first phase of retrofitting the Water Treatment Plant was completed in 2004 with the relocation of the intake point. This resulted in a noticeable improvement in water quality in the system. The expansion and electrification of a further 25 campsites was nearly completed, and the shower building serving the campground was refurbished and expanded.

- At Burge Lake Provincial Park and Zed Lake Provincial Park, a number of the campsites were refurbished and the boat launches and docks renewed.

Wildlife

- The 2004 Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill was again very active. A total of 103 polar bears were handled and 302 occurrences were actioned by Churchill District staff. Some new procedures and guidelines were introduced in 2004 respecting the handling of problem animals.

- Reports indicated healthy moose and black bear numbers throughout the region, and as a result most outfitters had a successful season for species. Outfitter requests for both species continue for remote areas within the Region; in 2004 there were 54 lodges/outfitters allocated 618 non-resident bear and 190 non-resident moose licences.

- The Qamanuriak Barren-Ground Caribou herd migrated into Manitoba the latter part of August and remained on the winter range across the far north until their departure for calving grounds in late April. As a result residents of the communities on the caribou range as well as resident and non-resident licenced hunters reported it was a successful season.

- Monitoring of the Wapisu Woodland Caribou herd through the use of radio-collars was completed throughout the year. The annual movement of this herd is being documented in relation to the proposed Wuskwatim generating and transmission line projects.

- The Thompson Fur Table was again successful, with a total of 232 trappers attending and $504,639 of wild fur sold.

- Commercial ecotourism operations continued in the Churchill Wildlife Management Area in 2004 with both fall and winter operations. The Region has also received applications for expanded ecotourism activities in the Cape Tatnam Wildlife Management Area.

Lands

- Mineral exploration activities regulated by Work Permits continued across much of the Region in this year. Geophysics and drilling activities occurred in Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Churchill, Wabowden, Thompson, Gillam, Island Lake and Gods Lake Narrows Districts'.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 30 Crown Land applications, 30 Crown Land assignments, 3 Crown Land Change-in-use applications, 80 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 15 Licence Advisory Committee (LAC) Licence applications, 11 LAC Renewal applications, 3 LAC Transfer Applications, 3 Environment Licence Pre-screening proposals, 3 Environment Licence Applications and 48 Treaty Land Entitlement Selections.

Environment

Under the Public Health Act, five new permits to operate food service establishments and one new permit to operate a swimming pool were issued. Eight Food Safety Courses were given in the Region.

Under *the Environment Act* there were nine Onsite Wastewater Management Systems registered and approved.

Table RO.17
12.3(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,368.6	45.88	2,403.2	(34.8)	
Other Expenditures	925.7		931.4	(5.7)	
Total 12.3(c)	**3,294.1**	**45.88**	**3,334.6**	**(40.5)**	

Interlake Region

The Interlake Region delivers programs and services in the following program areas: wildlife, fisheries, forestry, crown lands, water management, provincial parks, environmental protection, public health and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, natural resource and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Gimli and District Offices in Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Riverton, Selkirk, and Winnipeg Beach.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Enforcement

- The Interlake Region received 4,310 Occurrence Reports, of which 1,866 were about problem wildlife. The remainder were 1,453 calls for regulatory and 991 non-regulatory issues in areas such as parks, fishing, hunting and Crown Lands.

- Staff undertook 921enforcement actions, which resulted in 546 charges, 167 warnings, and 208 evictions from Parks. There were 157 charges under *The Manitoba Fisheries Regulation*, 93 charges were under *The Liquor Control Act* and 107 charges under *The Provincial Parks Act*.

Forestry

- In general, the volume harvested this year in the Interlake was up compared to the last couple of years with less Quota Holder's active but greater volumes being harvested by those who were active.

- Due to very wet and cold conditions throughout the Region there was very little harvest activity during the Fire Season (April to October) and winter brought above average snowfall with normal temperatures.

- Demand for both softwood and hardwood volume in-province, and from the US and Ontario remained strong.

Table RO.18
Timber Harvest Statistics
Interlake Region by Forest Management Unit
April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005 (m^3)

SPECIES	FMU 40	FMU 41	FMU 42	FMU 43	FMU 45	FMU 46	PERMITS	TOTALS
Softwood	10,000	8,500	0	2,500	5,000	25,000	2,750	**53,750**
Hardwood	3,000	5,000	6,500	2,000	0	0	3,000	**19,500**
TOTALS	**13,000**	**13,500**	**6,500**	**4,500**	**5,000**	**25,000**	**5,750**	**73,250**

Table RO.19
Forest Renewal Statistics
Interlake Region

AREA RENEWED (ha)	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Planted	311.4	137.4	116.8	98.2	323.6
Scarified	10	0	0	39	25
TOTALS	**321.4**	**137.4**	**116.8**	**137.2**	**348.6**
Trees Planted	844,644	371,950	213,480	255,200	697,689
Site Prepared (ha)	88	0	0	187	150
Plantation Area Chemically Released (ha)	36.7	270	0	7.2	20

Fire Management

- The Interlake Region had only 9 fires during the 2004 season. The first fire was at Gypsumville on April 14. The largest wildfire was near Lundar, spreading through mostly marshland reaching a size of 200 hectares.

- The winter of 2003-2004 was one with above normal snowfall. The spring was cold and wet and because of this the number of spring pre-green-up fires was down. The Interlake traditionally has a problem with spring fires.

- An automated weather station was put into service at Gypsumville, replacing the manual weather station. Two 20 man emergency fire fighter unit crews were trained at Shoe Lake. These crews were from Hodgson and Waterhen. Personnel from our region assisted in British Columbia with fires during their busy summer. The region also carried out fire fighting training at three of the provincial parks; they included Hecla, Grand Beach and Birds Hill Park.

Provincial Parks

- In response to public safety concerns, a parks safety and security outline and report was completed to deal with a number of health and safety issues. A number of items in the report have been actioned to better service the public in provincial parks.

- Capital projects included the completion of the Watchorn Provincial Park Campground enhancements. Electrical services were provided to 50% of the campsites. The Whitesands cottage subdivision was released to the public through draws.

- Phase 1 of the Fisher Bay Park Reserve consultations was completed. Fisher River First Nation has provided some initial feedback on their park reserve. Consultation will continue with other First Nation communities in the area.

- There was 190 Special Events hosted in Interlake Provincial Parks with over 50% occurring in Birds Hill Provincial Park.

- The Winnipeg Folk Festival at Birds Hill drew over 45,000 patrons in 2004. Grand Beach had an estimated 165,000 vehicles enter the park. Birds Hill vehicle traffic was approximately 268,000 vehicles and Hecla Provincial Park had 32,000 vehicles.

- The Chitek Lake Park Reserve designation recognizes the high natural values and cultural significance of the lands surrounding Chitek Lake. These lands are the primary range of Manitoba's only herd of free ranging Wood Bison. A Backcountry Land Use Category was established for the majority of the designated land in order to conserve the area's values and maintain it free from

logging, mining or the development of hydro-electric power while allowing a wide range of existing uses, such as hunting, trapping, commercial fishing and traditional activities, to continue. This protection from development is afforded while consultations with Skownan First Nation, the public and other interested parties are carried out regarding the future of the land, including a final designation for the Park Reserve.

Wildlife

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be one of Manitoba's premier wildlife viewing destinations with over 200,000 visitors on an annual basis. A cooperative Infrastructure and maintenance program agreement involving Ducks Unlimited Canada as a partner has been implemented to upgrade and expand existing infrastructure and habitat.

- The Narcisse Snake Dens continue to be one of the major wildlife viewing sites in the Interlake. New interpretive signage and improvements to the interpretive trails have added to the viewing experience. The Narcisse Snake Advisory Committee continues to provide advice and recommendations to government on the management of the snake dens.

- The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd has expanded its range and animals are now found about 12 miles north in the Sisib Lake area. A few animals traveled south this past winter and had to be re-captured and put in with the captive herd at Skownan. The second phase of a bison habitat assessment study was completed in August 2004, and helped identify additional bison range along the lake Winnipegosis shoreline.

- The Interlake Elk herd is now considered the largest disease-free herd in Manitoba due to an outbreak of Bovine TB in the Western Region. This herd of elk continues to provide recreational and sustenance opportunity for licensed and First Nations hunters.

- Sharp-Tail grouse habitat improvements were undertaken on about 100 acres of the Narcisse Wildlife Management Area to help improve breeding, nesting, and feeding habitats. This work was conducted on a site that had previously been treated by mechanical, chemical, and fire to control aspen.

- Maintenance and improvement work was undertaken on several wildlife management areas, including sign replacement, construction of new garbage containers, and treatment of noxious weeds.

- An extremely wet fall and late harvest conditions created substantial waterfowl crop depredation problems in the Oak Hammock Marsh and Riverton areas in 2004. Staff deployed all of the available propane bangers, and scarecrows in these areas. An estimated 300,000 geese, and 150,000 ducks were staging at Oak Hammock Marsh during peak migration.

- Deep snow and extremely cold temperatures resulted in elk depredation on three farms in the Lundar district from January to March 2005. Staff employed propane bangers, scarecrows, lights, and intercept feeding to help protect the farmer's stored feed supplies. This winter's depredation highlighted the need for an additional elk barrier fences to help protect farmers stored feed supplies in the Interlake Region

- Large numbers of Canada Geese (estimated at 175,000) continue to seek refuge each fall inside the City of Winnipeg limits on retention ponds and grain fields. These birds can pose a safety hazard at Winnipeg International Airport, create public health concerns and cause significant damage to parks, golf courses and private property. Manitoba Conservation has worked with the City of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Airport Authority, Winnipeg Humane Society, and neighboring municipalities to control bird numbers through hunting, removal of eggs, and encouraging farmers to plant alternate crops.

- Manitoba Conservation is consulting on phase one of a new near-urban wildlife management strategy around the north side of the City of Winnipeg to improve hunter and public safety, and help control

problem wildlife. Also, the hunting of Canada Geese will be encouraged in numerous areas to help control high goose numbers. Implementation of Phase 2 of the strategy, which will focus on the south and east side of the city, will be reviewed with local Rural Municipalities and considered for 2006.

- Staff constructed additional fencing across the Riverton Sandy Bar beach to help protect nesting Piping Plovers and also participated in monitoring of known Piping Plover habitats. Monitoring of Loggerhead Shrikes was also continued in the south Interlake. Small White Lady's-Slippers were recorded at three sites in the south Interlake and discussions were initiated with one of the landowners regarding protection of the site.

- Phase 2 of a two year Natural Resource Inventory of the Fish Lake Marsh Complex was conducted by the University of Winnipeg's Center for Forest Interdisciplinary Research (CFIR) during June and July 2004. This study indicated large numbers of orchids, neo-tropical birds and a wide variety of marsh birds, including the Least Bittern and Sora Rail. This unique area is recognized as having special wildlife values and is being considered for long term protection.

- The Interlake Region is recognized as a popular hunting area for non-resident deer, bear, and game bird hunting, which generates significant economic benefits for many of the smaller Interlake communities. About 75 licensed outfitters provide hunts for 1,000 deer and bear hunters, and 1,500 game bird hunters.

Lands

- Developed a 120 lot Crown land subdivision at Little Deer in the Interlake and a 20 lot subdivision at St. Malo in the Red River Region.

- Staff assessed about 120 applications for Crown Lands, including general permits, work permits, leases, sales, appeals, exchanges and quarry leases.

- The Region received 140 applications for crown quarry permits, 3 new snowmobile trail proposals, 60 resource-based tourism facility applications, 20 policy and planning reviews, 130 private land subdivisions, 180 water rights license applications, 85 operational land use code amendments, 15 municipal planning reviews/By-law Amendments and 3 *Environment Act* License proposals.

- Treaty Land Entitlement activities included a review of tentative land selections for Peguis First Nation.

Environment

- Interlake Region continues to work with municipalities on solid waste management by working with local government to ensure closure of unacceptable waste disposal sites and developing proper sites or converting existing sites to waste transfer stations. Staff continues to work toward the closure of the last of the liquid waste pits in the region and to work with municipalities and other agencies to speed construction of engineered sewage lagoons or other treatment facilities to properly treat sewage wastes. Staff are also working with municipalities to ensure that existing sewage treatment facilities are upgraded when required or that new facilities are constructed.

- The new on-site waste water regulation received additional emphasis this year.

- Staff continued work with livestock producers to ensure compliance with regulations. A new regulation is in place and an Environment Officer was assigned to focus on livestock issues. The new regulation applies to more livestock operations and manure storage facilities to further enhance protection of groundwater and surface water resources.

- Priority was placed on the following public health areas: restaurants, swimming pools, recreation camps, and large public gatherings such as the larger fairs and festivals.

- Interlake regional environment staff monitored and inspected approximately 2,400 sites including, but not limited to, gas stations, restaurants, public water supplies, private sewage systems, waste disposal sites and livestock facilities.

Outreach

- Priority effort focused on developing communication approaches to aboriginal communities in the Interlake. Development of information and communication strategy and support mechanisms was continued.

Information and Communication Technology

- Priority actions included upgrading computer capacity in Regional and District offices. Installation of enhancements to regional GIS technology, development of preliminary applications for mobile forest fire suppression use, updating regional data bases in support of provincial fisheries and wildlife information storage and retrieval systems.

Table RO.20
12.3(d) Interlake Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,061.8	60.64	3,073.6	(11.8)	
Other Expenditures	1,087.8		1,094.5	(6.7)	
Total 12.3(d)	**4,149.6**	**60.64**	**4,168.1**	**(18.5)**	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region administers programs and services for the following areas; Crown lands, provincial parks, environmental programs, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resources and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Bissett, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague, Piney and West Hawk Lake, and Sub-District Offices at Berens River and Little Grand Rapids.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Enforcement

- Out of a total of 1883 Occurrence Reports, 501 were problem wildlife, (43 beaver, 338 black bear, 4 big game, 17 wolf, 15 migratory birds, 84 other), 727 were regulatory and 655 were non-regulatory.

- 3,006 hunters were checked resulting in 57 charges and 17 warnings. There were 118 charges, 107 warnings and 343 evictions under *The Provincial Parks Act and Regulations*.

- Natural Resource Officers checked 6916 anglers resulting in 29 charges and 5 warnings.

Forestry

- Major activity continues to be the monitoring and reconciling of Tembec's Annual Operating and Renewal Plans with their field operation. Approximately 170,000 cubic meters of timber was harvested within the Forest Management License (FML). Forest renewal activities included the planting of 1.16 million trees on 1,220 hectares of harvested land.

- Outside of the FML, staff managed to harvest approximately 240,000 cubic meters of timber and planted 550 hectares of land with 1.3 million seedlings.

- Several workshops were held in the Whiteshell Provincial Park to instruct cottagers how to assess fire risk and ways to reduce these risks, on and around their cottage lots. Similar presentations were made to the Whiteshell Cottagers Association executive and at the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Annual General Meeting. The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention.

- Five-Year Timber Harvesting and Renewal Plans have been completed for forest management units #20, #23 and #30.

- Regional staff continue to participate in the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF) program. The Manitoba Model Forest was created in 1992 through a partnership agreement with interested groups looking to support innovative sustainable forest management programs. The focus of the MBMF is to work towards a common understanding of ecosystem based process and sustainable development.

Fire Management

- There were a total of 33 fires with a total 130 hectares burned. All fires were man caused.

Provincial Parks

- Due to poor summer weather, use was down from the previous year in parks throughout the region. Vehicle counts were down by 7.3% and campground use was down by 16.9%. The region experienced one of the best years ever for winter activities in Parks. Use of snowmobile and ski trails was excellent.

- In spite of the weather, the Whiteshell Ambulance Service experienced a busy year with a total of 118 calls and 76 people transported to hospital.

- The Volunteer South East Whiteshell Fire Department purchased a new rescue/pumper boat, which now allows them to action remote cottage emergencies.

- It was another busy year for infrastructure improvements throughout the Parks in the region. Three new public water systems were completed this year. These improvements consisted of a new pumphouse at both Caddy Lake and White Lake Campgrounds and a new water treatment plant for Falcon Lake townsite. Thirty-two electrical campsites were completed at New Nutimik Lake Campground. The final feasibility studies for the upgrade work on the sewage lagoons at West Hawk Lake and Big Whiteshell Lake were completed. Trail development continued on the Trans Canada Trail in both the north and south Whiteshell. The private sector concluded a major upgrade to the Mall Grocery Store at Falcon Lake.

Wildlife

- Two major stakeholder and First Nation co-operative management committees continued to meet.

- The Eastern Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee coordinated the development and completion of two major reports: 1) a report entitled "Determining Woodland Caribou Home Range and Habitat Use in Eastern Manitoba", and 2) a report providing recommendations on forest management activities within the winter range of the Owl Lake Herd, entitled: "Landscape Management Strategy for the Owl Lake Woodland Caribou herd: An Update of the Original 1995 Strategy". The committee and its members also continued work on a number of data-gathering and information-exchange projects, including capture and monitoring of GPS and VHF radio equipped caribou, conducting lichen surveys, and the development and delivery of an Expert Workshop for Canadian woodland caribou practitioners as well as an associated Public Forum.

- The Committee for Moose Management continued to work with First Nation communities, fish and wildlife clubs and industry in fostering development of a "managed moose hunting system" that would apply to all people. Two local First Nations have secured funding to conduct community workshops to explore the idea further.

- Wildlife staff continue to service a full range of clients, including First Nations, trappers, hunters, outfitters, the forest industry, non-government organizations, wildlife associations, communities and individual requests. Quota reviews were undertaken to determine the total number of non-resident, non-Canadian big game (deer, moose and bear) licenses to be made available to outfitters for 2005-2007, as well as how the licenses were to be allocated. This included allocations to four new local First Nations outfitters.

Lands

- Provincial Cottaging Initiative - Sites were selected and lots were made available for the spring 2005 draw at Traverse Estates, Maple Creek and Grausdin Point. Construction of roads and installation of services such as MTS and Manitoba Hydro at these sites is continuing. Existing infill lots at Grausdin Point and Totem Road were also advertised on the draw.

- Crown land sale applications, general permits, Licensing Advisory Committee, Quarry Permits, leases and circular subdivision reviews continued throughout the year.

- Wild rice season in the Whiteshell Provincial Park was coordinated with the effected First Nation harvesters. Due to unstable water levels throughout the growing season the harvest was very poor.

- The Eastern Region manages 519 General Permits, 114 Vacation Home Permits, 48 Vacation Home Leases, 77 Miscellaneous Leases, 11 Licenses of Occupation and 89 Wild Rice Leases and Licenses

Environment/Public Health

- 281 onsite wastewater management systems were registered, and 49 complaints investigated.

- Eastern Region Public Health Inspectors provided food-handler training/certification to seventy food handlers during the 2004/2005 fiscal year.

Program	No. of Warnings Issued	No. of Office Notices Issued
Onsite Wastewater	29	4
Livestock	3	
Dwellings & Buildings	2	
Litter	1	

Table RO.21
12.3(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,164.6	63.72	3,132.0	32.6	
Other Expenditures	818.8		797.8	21.0	
Total 12.3(e)	**3,983.4**	**63.72**	**3,929.8**	**53.6**	

Western Region

The Region administers programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, provincial parks, environment programs, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement of environment, resource and health legislation. This is done by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Brandon, Sub-regional Offices in Dauphin and Swan River, and District Offices at Brandon, Dauphin, Boissevain, Carberry, Grandview, Killarney, Mafeking, McCreary, Neepawa, Roblin, Shoal Lake, Swan River, Virden, and Winnipegosis.

Resource Officers continued work with livestock producers to reduce numbers of livestock injured or killed by wildlife.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Enforcement

- There were 2,380 Occurrence Reports of which, 1,301 were for problem wildlife, 727 were regulatory and 352 non-regulatory:
  - Problem Wildlife: 67 Beaver, 243 Black Bear, 175 Big Game, 56 Wolf, 165 Migratory Birds, 595 other.
  - Regulatory: 110 Parks, 366 Wildlife, 16 Commercial Fish, 32 Sport Fish, 19 Crown Lands, 6 Forestry, 23 Water Rights, 155 Other.
  - Non-Regulatory: 46 Parks, 139 Wildlife, 75 Roadkills, 9 Sport Fish, 1 Commercial Fish, 8 Crown Lands, 2 Forestry, 18 Water Rights, 54 other.
- Wildlife checks resulted in Officers checking 2,861 deer, 317 moose, 316 elk, 70 bear, 47 upland game bird and 218 waterfowl hunters. 53 lodges/outfitters, 94 trappers, 357 Treaty Indian hunters, 1 fur dealer, and 11 taxidermists/animal parts dealers.
- Officers checked 5,857 recreational anglers, 173 commercial fishers, 613 domestic fishers, 67 Treaty Indian fishers and 255 nets. The Region made 323 off-road vehicle checks and 22 Snowman checks.
- Spring conservation closure, Lake Dauphin and tributaries. Resource Officers spent 442 staff hours between April 15 to April 29, 2004 enforcing the conservation closure.
- Forestry checks resulted in Officers checking 445 timber sales/operations, 566 timber permits, 5 sawmill/planers, 4 load slips and 2 trespass operations.

Forestry

- Coordinated and completed review of the Louisiana-Pacific (LP) 2004-05 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and the Mountain Quota Holders Association (MQHA) 2004-05 AOP.
- Coordinated and completed mitigation process for the LP 2005-06 AOP and the MQHA 2005-06 AOP.
- Issued 61 Work Permits for timber harvest on 194 harvest blocks and 20 work permits for renewal related activity in the Mountain Forest Section. Note, there was a 35% reduction in permits issued this year compared to last year's 94 permits on 214 harvest blocks in 2003-04. This represents a considerable streamlining of the work permit process for the Forest Industry.

- In conjunction with district offices, there were 615 timber permits issued for approximately 11,800 m^3 of timber in the Western Region.

- Staff continue to play a key role in the development and implementation of chipperwood measurement procedures for the Chipperwood Trial with Spruce Products Limited.

- Licenced five chipperwood Stock pile sites to Spruce Products Limited through Crown Land General Permits. Note: directed one site to Mistletoe infected pine site to provide a cost effective means of managing mistletoe near a Jack Pine plantation.

- Regional staff worked with the Protected Area Intiative on the development of the Armit Meadows Ecological Reserve and The Bell Steeprock Canyon Protected Area both located within the Porcupine Provincial Forest.

- Regional Forestry Operations staff planned and implemented:
  - Planting of 847,560 Spruce and Pine seedlings in the Mountain Forest Section.
  - Site Preparation of almost 300 ha of harvested area in preparation for tree planting.
  - Scarified 27 ha of area for natural regeneration.
  - Snow cached 559,200 conifer seedlings for spring plant in 2005.
  - Low impact, stand tending (release of conifer seedlings from Vegetative competition) on 20 ha of plantation.
  - With assistance of communities of Barrows and Mafeking, Forestry staff completed collection of Black Spruce Cones in seed zones 11, north of Hwy. 77(near Red Deer Lake).

- In conjunction with Forestry Branch:
  - Completed one outstanding softwood auction in FMU # 14 (Porcupines Provincial Forest)
  - Established two timber sales awarded to First Nations in the Mountain Forest Section.
  - Awarded a timber sale of 1,500 m^3 of fire killed post material (Spruce and Tamarack) to Prairie Forest Products.
  - Awarded a one time harvest volume of 205 m^3 in the Spruce Woods to local Quota holder to facilitate stand tending in 1,930 Scots Pine Plantation.
  - Note both awarded timber sales were previously offered through public auction with no bids received.

Fire Management

- There were 3 fires in the region, (2 human caused and 1 lightning) which burned 6 hectares of grass & willow and 2 hectares of forested area. Total suppression costs of $8,200.00. Staff movement included Initial Attack crews travelling to B.C., burn team and liaison officers were utilized in B.C. and the Yukon. Clerical, burn teams, Incident Command System team members, mobile warehouse and fire line personnel were utilized in the Northeast region.

- Training included 5 staff taking the Crew Leader course, 23 staff taking the I-200 course, 9 staff being trained on the I-300 course, 23 Emergency Fire Fighter (EFF) Crew Bosses and 57 EFF Crew Members were certified. The prevention program included Smokey Bear attending parades and displays on 13 occasions throughout the region.

Provincial Parks

- Transient camping for 2004 was down at all campgrounds but Asessippi by amounts ranging from 1% to 22% versus 2003. Asessippi showed an 18% increase over 2003. Seasonal camping use was consistent with 2003. Use of the Park Reservation Service continues to increase.

- Criddle-Vane Provincial Park was officially opened on July 17, 2004.

- Campsite improvements were made at Whitefish Lake. As part of the provincial campsite enhancement initiative, 36 campsites were electrified at Blue Lake.

- Inspections were conducted on several park playgrounds, around the province, to evaluate their consistency with Canadian Guidelines.

- Pumphouse improvements were made in Turtle Mountain, Asessippi, and Rainbow Beach.

- Waterfront risk assessments were completed on park beaches in the region.

- Back-tier cottage lots at Wellman Lake were made available on the provincial cottage draws in 2004. Several lots were taken as result of provincial advertising of the program.

Wildlife

- The Bears and Bees project in the Ethelbert area continues. Six outfitters maintain 20 electric fences around chronic beeyard depredation sites. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.

- Expanded Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance conducted in the white-tailed deer population of the extreme west and the border area adjacent to North Dakota and Minnesota. 650 deer heads were collected from hunters at checkstations in Roblin, Russell, Birtle, Virden, Melita, Killarney, Boissevain and Manitou with no positive samples.

- Winter Beaver Program was successful and welcomed by rural municipalities and registered trappers.

- Coyote population remained high with a significant number of complaints received. A new predator control program was initiated in co-operation with Manitoba Crop Insurance and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers. There were three chronic problem areas near Dauphin, Birtle and Neepawa areas. Over 130 complaints were actioned by trappers.

- Peregrine Falcons returned to the MacKenzie Seeds building in Brandon to nest for their ninth consecutive year. An additional pair of Peregrine Falcons have nested at the Brandon Mental Health Centre grounds this spring. The nesting structure installed at Shoal Lake to entice nesting by Peregrine Falcons was not successful.

- A review of non-resident (non-Canadian) deer, moose and black bear license use by outfitters for 2002 - 2004 was undertaken. Allocations for the next three year review period were completed. Moose mortalities in the region were high due to heavy tick infestation during the spring.

- Regional staff continued to deliver the field implementation of a Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) eradication strategy developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation. This initiative included a barrier fencing program; 57 fences were installed using aboriginal contractors; expanded hunting seasons; enhanced "no baiting" regulations and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone. Worked closely with district Natural Resource Officers conducting aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Aarea 23/23A around Riding Mountian National Park.

- The second Whitewater Lake Wildlife Management Area bird festival took place. Facilities at the site (trail improvements and signage) were improved through funding from the Heritage Marsh program

and the Watchable Wildlife program. The site continues to attract visitors from around the world and has raised the profile of Whitewater Lake as a destination for birding.

- Planning is underway to designate a portion of the Pembina Valley as an Important Bird Area with a focus on raptor migration.

- Cooperation continued with local landowners in the grazing demonstration projects on selected Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

- Sixty five hectares of wildlife habitat was purchased in the Brookdale area with funds obtained through an agreement to mitigate for the loss of wildlife habitat from oil well development on the Pierson Wildlife Management Area in the early 1990's.

- Approvals obtained for inclusion of additional Crown lands in the Onanole Wildlife Management Area. Approvals also obtained for the designation of the Hillside WMA.

- Discussions were initiated between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Western Region wildlife staff and Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo regarding endangered species recovery planning for CFB Shilo and the surrounding area.

- As an ongoing co-management initiative between Manitoba Conservation and Western Region Tribal Council an Aboriginal Resource Technician was hired. Located in Dauphin, the position is responsible for providing technical assistance toward the development and implementation of long range resource management between Manitoba Conservation and West Region Tribal Council. This includes assisting in the delivery of co-management projects and programs through undertaking community consultations, data collection, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal users. The position will also participate in education, extension and communication of co-management initiatives for both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and stakeholders.

- Implemented the Habitat Mitigation Program with Manitoba Transportation and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation to facilitate compensation and mitigation for wetland losses associated with highway construction projects. The agreements for Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 16 and the twinning of PTH 1 were finalized. Funding has been secured from Manitoba Transportation and Government Services to implement the mitigation program relative to PTH 1 and potential sites have been selected.

- Assistance and information relative to wildlife and bio-diversity in general was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River and the Turtle Mountain Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds within the districts.

Lands

- The Western Region's final selection of lands for the Protected Areas Initiative was revised and submitted.

- A preliminary regional site selection list for the ongoing provincial cottaging initiative was completed. Existing and new subdivisions have been advertised on the internet/intranet. Lots were allocated by public draw in the summer of 2004 at George Lake, Lake of the Prairies, Wellman Lake, Woods Creek, Red Deer River and Whitefish Lake.
- Crown land sale applications, general permits, Licensing Advisory Committee circulars and subdivision reviews continued throughout the year.

- Crown and municipal land exchanges are still ongoing in an effort to complete the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest expansion.

Inspection/Enforcement, Public Health, Dangerous Goods Handling

- Regional headquarters at Brandon, sub-regional office at Dauphin; and with sub-offices in Swan River, Killarney and Virden (Vacant), administer and manage the Environmental, Public Health (including the non-smoking Legislation), the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation and the Livestock programs. Staff completed inspections and are responsible for responding to environmental and public health emergencies.

Licensing/Waste Disposal

- The Town of Neepawa liquid waste provisions coupled with Springhill Farms continues to be monitored pending construction of an appropriately sized treatment facility to accommodate the demand.

- The new regional Class 1 landfill facility in the Rural Municipality of Odanah has opened and participating municipalities are taking steps to close or convert existing waste facilities to waste transfer stations.

- Staff continue to work with local abattoirs and producers on the disposal of offal & carcasses within the region.

Emergency Response

- There were 50 environmental incidents responded to by the Western Region environment staff.

Public Health

- Staff have increased the enforcement of public health provisions in the food service industry. Over this past year there were a total of 73 formal warnings issued and 36 charges were served under the Food handling legislation. Staff continue to assist with the delivery of the summer beach sampling program and Environmental Youth Corps projects.

- Foodsafe continues to be delivered by Public Health Inspectors/Environment Officer's at Assiniboine Community College, with programs delivered in Neepawa, Virden, Deloraine, Carberry, Dauphin, Russell, Swan River, and Hamiota with approximately 400 food handlers becoming certified.

Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation

- Staff participated with the Emergency Measures Organization and related agencies in 6 environmental training exercises to assist in better accident response and handling of dangerous goods that may be involved in an incident. New staff have been encouraged to take an active role with additional training being provided to assume additional responsibilities related to accident response.

Environmental Livestock Program

- Significant regulation amendments in 2004 resulted in additional program requirements for Western Region. These amendments include permit/engineering requirements for large cattle confinement areas, registration of non-permitted manure storage facilities, and source water monitoring.

- A second environment officer position was assigned to the region for enforcement of livestock regulations.

- 54 enforcement's were issued; 117 call outs (public complaints/industry notification/agency notification) were received; 125 annual and construction inspections of manure storages were completed; 7 permits were issued for the construction, expansion or modification of manure storage facilities; 1 technical review report was conducted on new or expanding operations.

Table RO.22
12.3(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,557.4	86.39	4,458.7	98.7	
Other Expenditures	1,427.6		1,438.7	(11.1)	
Total 12.3(f)	**5,985.0**	**86.39**	**5,897.4**	**87.6**	

Red River Region

The Red River Region is comprised primarily of urban and agricultural land uses. Although the region still contains some limited natural, undeveloped areas, the majority of the land base has been significantly altered by human occupation. The focus of the work undertaken by Red River Region staff is often somewhat different than the other regions in the Regional Operations Division.

Over 60% of Manitoba's population reside in the Red River Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agricultural industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role in the region. Major programs associated with the above described, activities administered by the region, include Public Health, *Environment Act* and The Transportation of Dangerous Goods licences enforcement, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations. The Red River Region also administers programs and services for the following areas: wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and Provincial Parks. It should be noted that the St. Malo Provincial Park in the region is the third busiest park in the province in terms of visitors per night.

The Red River Region has a Regional Office in Winnipeg and District Offices at Manitou, Morris, Portage La Prairie, Steinbach, Winkler and Winnipeg.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

District Activities – Resources and Parks

- Approximately 1,400 Occurrence Reports were received, of which approximately 650 calls were about problem wildlife and about 380 required enforcement action. The remainder, about 370 calls, was for fire suppression and other non-enforcement resource management issues.
- Of Officers' time commitment, about 36.2% was spent on regulatory activities, 31.5% on resource management, fires and other community services, 22% was spent on administration, 5.9% on officer development/training and 4.4% on problem wildlife.
- The Manitoba Fly Fisherman's Association captured 174 adult Black Crappie in Lake Minnewasta near Morden and released them in Kingfish Lake in Birds Hill Provincial Park.
- 300,000 Walleye fry were stocked in Lake Minnewasta.
- 150,000 Walleye fry were stocked in the St. Malo Resevoir.
- 100,000 Walleye fry were stocked in the Mary Jane Resevoir.
- Risk Assessments and Risk Management Plans were completed in all the Region's parks.
- Transient Camping Unit Nights sold totaled 15,485 at St. Malo.
- Significant infrastructure upgrades were accomplished at Stephenfield Provincial Park with the construction of a new pump house. The Pembina Valley Water Coop now supplies all potable water to the park. Water and electrical up grades included the provision of 30/50 amp service and water outlets to 35 previously unserviced campsites and upgrading electrical service to 51 others.

District Activities – Environment and Public Health

- Initiated a manure composting program for Assiniboia Downs in conjunction with a landscape company.

- Completed inspection and upgrading of all steel manure storage tanks in the region.

- A total of 24 warnings, 7 Common Offence Notices, 11 Environment Officer's Orders and 5 Director's Orders were issued under the Livestock Programs.

- Twenty one (21) new permits were issued for the construction, expansion or modification of livestock manure storage facilities; 94 construction inspections and 72 inspections of existing manure storage facilities were conducted.

- Prepared and released 16 technical review reports on new or expanding livestock operations.

- Due to adverse wet weather conditions last fall, 74 emergency spread authorization request were approved for late fall manure application.

- Due to a gasoline contamination concern in the community of Grosse Isle, the private wells sampling program is on going.

- Completed the permitting process for all operating petroleum storage sites in the region.

- Regional staff dealt with the Lindane contaminated seed disposal project from Miller Environmental. Surface runoff and soil-monitoring program was initiated.

- Public Health staff from the Winkler and Portage district office conducted a major investigation related to the sale of uninspected meat and processed meat products. Medical Officer of Health and Canadian Food Inspection Services representatives assisted in product destruction decision.

- A major awareness campaign for the suppliers and contractors related to the new Petroleum Storage regulation was initiated by the Winkler office.

- Regional staff continue to work with, and assist, local municipalities in areas related to solid waste management and waste water management. This includes waste disposal ground closures, establishment of transfer stations, emergency discharges from sewage lagoon and the establishment of new waste water management facilities.

- In the area of Emergency Response, regional staff responded and assisted in the clean up of a number of environment accidents and chemical spills.

- Regional staff participated in the Winnipeg Airport Authority Technical Advisory Committee on the management of glycol (a deicing agent). A new deicing pad with collection system and storage tank was constructed and put into operation last fall.

- Regional Public Health Inspectors participated in the enforcement of the new Non Smoking Health Protection Act. Although a number of warnings and charges were issued, the overall compliance rate is very high.

- Public Health Inspectors in the Winnipeg District inspected and issued permits for over 1,200 food service establishments, 200 swimming pools, 200 day cares, 12 body modification establishments, and over 200 temporary food service operations for events such as the Red River Exhibition, Folklorama and Festival du Voyageur.

- The region continues to provide engineering, technical and logistical support to other regions and Headquarters in various programs such as the livestock program, petroleum program, onsite wastewater systems program, and contaminated site program.

Table RO.23

12.3(g) Red River Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,196.4	60.39	3,480.3	(283.9)	1
Other Expenditures	872.0		789.1	82.9	
Total 12.3(g)	**4,068.4**	**60.39**	**4,269.4**	**(201.0)**	

1. Lower than anticipated expenditures due to staff turnover.

Fire Program

- Manitoba experienced a very slow wildfire season in 2004. A total of 234 fires burned 26,004.1 hectares, well above the 20-year average of 568 fires and 440,888 hectares burned. The spring began with lower than normal fire activity due to higher than normal snowfall conditions and an abundance of spring rains. Due to the slow season, Manitoba was able to export resources to assist other Canadian fire agencies.

2004 Fire Season

- Heavier than normal snowfall in most areas coupled with above normal spring precipitation and over winter ground moisture conditions slowed fire activity. A total of 46 wildfires (of which 45 were human caused) had occurred by May 31. Human caused fires are the predominant source of ignition until June, at which time, lightning becomes the principle source. The close of the fire season yielded a total of 114 human caused and 120 lightning fires, slightly higher than the long-term proportion between lightning and human caused fires.
- Manitoba experienced an abnormally cool and damp summer throughout the province, continuously from April to September. Weather patterns were dominated by strong low pressure systems with weak high pressure systems. There were only 35 days of elevated Initial Attack Preparedness recorded within the 17 zones during the entire season.
- The application of the Initial Attack Preparedness System proved very successful in reducing the incidence of large fires in high priority value areas. In total 26,400.1 hectares were consumed by fire, with only 2,374.6 hectares of that occurring in the full response zones. Losses to merchantable timber were minimal with no structural losses reported. Of the 234 fires, 189 were full action, 8 were limited action, and 37 were no action fires. The largest incident was a "fire flap" or a multiple fire start situation of 14 fires, that occurred near Lynn Lake in mid July.
- Fire program used 7 CL-215 waterbombers, 3 Cessna 310 Bird Dog aircraft and 3 single engine Otter aircraft, operated by Manitoba Government Air Services. Two of the single Otters are in the process of being refitted with turbine engines and a Twin Otter will replace the third single Otter. These aircraft should be in place by mid to end of June 2005. In addition, the province seasonally contracts 1 - Bell 206 Long Ranger, 1 - Bell 204 and 3 - Bell 205 helicopters from private operators. Through Standing Offers, the Program casually charters additional helicopters, Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) and fixed-wing aircraft as required.
- Air operations staff continued to work closely with Manitoba Aerial Applicator Operators (Single Engine Air Tankers) to enhance their capability to deliver long-term fire retardant. There is a need, during spring ice breakup, to have an air tanker resource when the ice prevents refilling waterbombers from lakes. Employing up to 12 aircraft and 4 forward attack bases, these Single Engine Air Tankers were utilized throughout the entire fire season and have become a core supplement to the government owned aircraft.
- Fire resistant protective clothing is standard issue for all fireline staff. Implementation plans for outfitting Emergency Fire Fighters (EFF) in protective fireline clothing continues. The department has implemented a Provincial Fire Pump Parts program that is resulting in parts standardization and availability, reduction in purchases and cost savings.
- Improvements to the Manitoba weather station network continue with five new stations being located at strategic locations throughout the province. Research continues in the use of satellite phones for light to medium duty remote weather station locations.
- A Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Center (CIFFC) certified crew leader session was held in the spring once again and 39 staff received training. Most crewmembers have now received first-aid training required by Workplace Health and Safety regulations, and most Type 1 Initial Attack staff have been certified to CIFFC national standards. A new Type 2 EFF training program is under development and a preliminary group of 60 EFF's received advanced Type 2 training.

- Work continued on training staff on the Canadian Incident Command System (ICS). Over 450 staff have now received the orientation I-100 course while 173 received the basic I-200 course and 43 staff have received the intermediate I-300 course. The Fireline Finance and Administration course was delivered to 40 staff members. This highly regarded course has enhanced the administrative functions of the Fire Program.

- Wildfire prevention consisted of intensive spring radio and newspaper fire prevention advertising as well as advertising in the Manitoba Anglers Guide and other publications. As spring progressed and the fire danger levels increased, fire prevention radio spots were played on many southern and northern radio stations. A unique one-minute radio spot was developed by a First Nations person, and spoken by an Elder for a First Nations audience on the Native Communications Radio Network. Handout items included litterbags, fridge magnets and Smokey Bear items. Assistance was provided to the Parks Branch children's' workbook as well.

- Equipment and personnel are shared with other jurisdictions in Canada under the Mutual Aid Resources Sharing Agreement (MARS). Due to slow fire activity in the province, Manitoba was a large exporter of suppression resources required to assist in 2004. There were no imports into Manitoba and a total of 10 exports of personnel and equipment were provided to British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Parks Canada in 2004.

Table RO.24

2004 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Province	
CAUSE	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	8	10.8	4	5.6	1	3.9			8	14.0	21	34.3
settlement	12	8.2	2	5.6			1	10.3	7	79.8	22	103.9
woods operations			1	5.6					1	0.1	2	5.7
other industry			1	0.3			1	0.2	2	6.0	4	6.5
railroads	1	0.1	1	0.5					1	1.0	3	1.6
public projects	1	2.0							4	0.5	5	2.5
incendiary	19	4.9	5	1.5	1	2.0	4	19.2	7	19.2	36	46.8
miscellaneous	12	598.7	3	0.5			1	1.5	2	0.2	18	600.9
agricultural							2	134.5	1	4.0	3	138.5
lightning	93	25,020.8	26	41.6	1	1.0					120	25,063.4
all causes	146	25,645.5	43	61.2	3	6.9	9	165.7	33	124.8	234	26,004.1

Note: In the 2004 fire season 225 wildfires burning 8,659.8 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 9 lightning fires that burned 17,344.3 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 234 fires burning 26,004.1 hectares for the 2004 fire season.

Table RO.25

2004 - Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

	Actioned Fires				No Action Fires				Limited Action Fires				All Fires			
ZONE	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned	# fires	% fires	Area burned (hectares)	% of area burned
RED	119	62.96%	269.5	11.35%	1	2.70%	2.0	0.01%	2	25.0%	37.5	2.53%	122	52.14%	309.0	1.19%
YELLOW	2	1.06%	3.0	0.13%									2	0.85%	3.0	0.01%
GREEN	66	34.92%	2,018.9	85.02%	9	24.32%	733.4	3.31%	4	50.0%	1,042.3	70.26%	79	33.76%	3,794.6	14.59%
WHITE	2	1.06%	83.2	3.50%	27	72.97%	21,410.7	96.68%	2	25.0%	403.6	27.21%	31	13.25%	21,897.5	84.21%
ALL ZONES	189	100.0%	2,374.6	100.0%	37	100.0%	22,146.1	100.0%	8	100.0%	1,483.4	100.0%	234	100.0%	26,004.1	100.0%

Note: In the 2004 fire season 225 wildfires burning 8,659.8 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 9 lightning fires that burned 17,344.3 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 234 fires burning 26,004.1 hectares for the 2004 fire season.

Figure 3. Number of Fires, 1995-2004

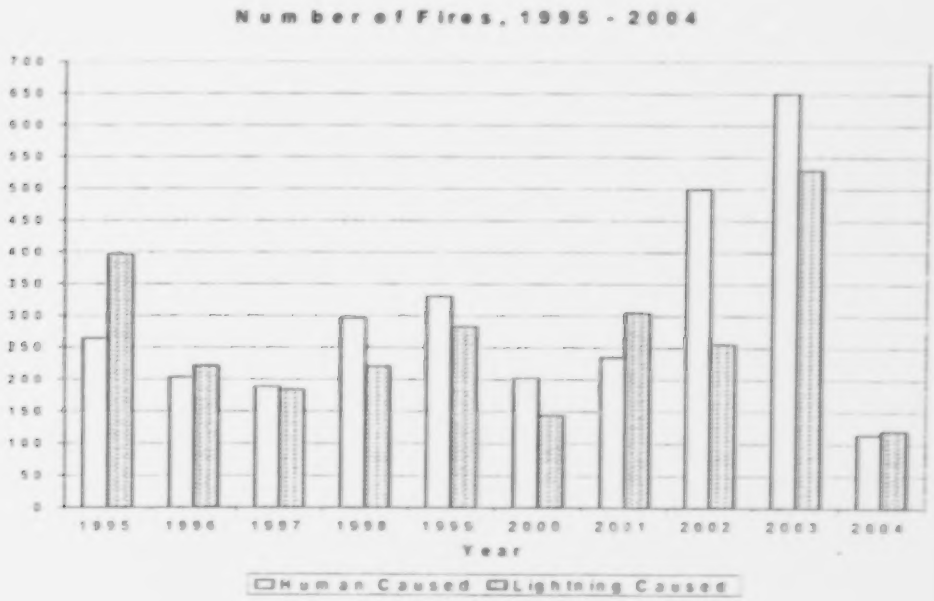
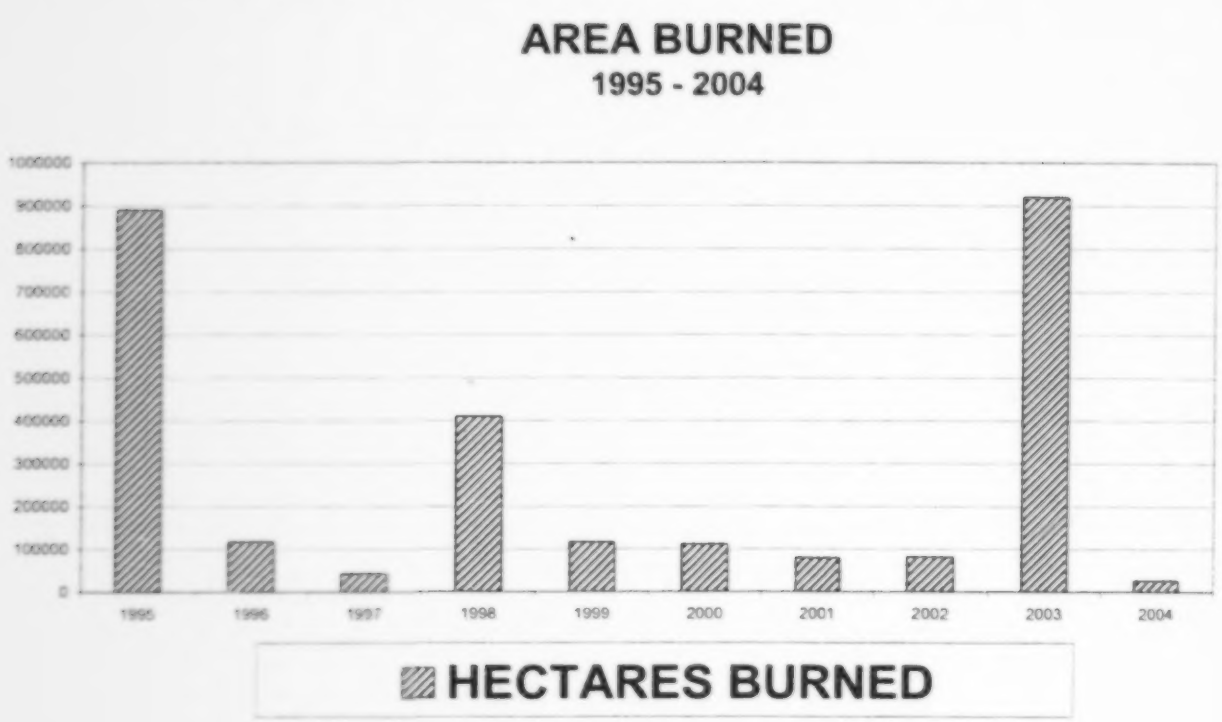


Figure 4. Area Burned, 1995-2004



Environmental Emergency Response Team

- The Emergency Response Program received over 3,400 calls to the Emergency Response 24-hour line. Of these, 599 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remainder, calls that were received but were not within the Department's mandate, were directed to the appropriate outside agencies for action.

- The Department continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and Regional personnel. Thirteen staff have been trained to National Fire Protection Agency 472 Technicians Level Hazardous Materials Responder, twenty-five staff have completed Incident Command Training, and ten staff have completed Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear (CBRN) basic training. Various other training initiatives were made available to the response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

- The Emergency Response Team assists Police Forces with removal and disposal of chemicals found at clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helps evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for CBRN terrorism response in Manitoba.

- The Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation has been redrafted for amendment and after a round of consultation with interested parties, is expected to be completed in 2005. This regulation will expand the reporting requirements for environmental accidents to include contaminants previously not listed for reporting. It will bring the reporting requirements in Manitoba in line with Federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and Transportation of Dangerous Goods reporting requirements.

Table RO.26
Environmental Accidents

Total number of calls received	3,400
Total number of incidents reported	599
Breakdown of incidents by accident type:	
Transport-related	94
Spills during product handling	70
Equipment failure	131
Miscellaneous	304

Table RO.27
12.3(h) Fire Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,360.5	58.69	5,274.7	85.8	
Other Expenditures	8,253.6		8,254.9	(1.3)	
Total 12.3(h)	**13,614.1**	**58.69**	**13,529.6**	**84.5**	

Livestock Operations Support

The primary objective of Livestock Operations Support is to ensure consistent administration of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* across the province. This program is supported by the development of procedures, protocols and standards for application by regionally based staff. Regional responsibilities include regular inspection of storage facilities for manure and mortalities, inspection of manure storage facilities during construction, investigation of complaints, response to reports of manure spills and enforcement of regulations. Standards for the construction of manure storage facilities and for construction of confined areas such as feedlots and bio-tech shelters were prepared and released to industry.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- A highlight that underpinned much of the Program's efforts during the year was the March 30, 2004 amendment of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation. Significant changes included new restrictions on manure application, new requirements for monitoring of source waters and new requirements for registration of manure storage facilities that predate permits.

- The new restriction on manure application uses soil agricultural capability classifications to determine the maximum amount of residual nitrate nitrogen that may be present in soils. This more closely binds fertilization with manure to actual crop productivity and uptake, thereby reducing the potential for environmental degradation. Additionally, the previous higher soil nitrate tolerances for alfalfa and grasses were eliminated to discourage the use of these crops as "dumping grounds".

- The change in restrictions on manure application affected administration of manure management planning. Although 458 manure management plans (MMPs) were processed and registered, auditing was suspended in order to allow operators time to come into compliance with the new requirements.

MMPs are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomically appropriate and environmentally sound.

The new requirement for monitoring of source water quality affected all operations with 300 or more animal units. Since these are the same operations that are required to register MMPs annually, all operations in the MMP database were notified of the new requirements by letter. Additionally, a number of the producer organizations also notified their members. Approximately half of the operations had complied with the new requirements by December 31, 2004. New submissions of source water monitoring data continue to be received.

- Manitoba's Prosphorus Expert Committee met several times during 2004/05 with the intent of providing advice to the Minister regarding regulation of manure application on the basis of phosphorus levels.

- Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to regulatory requirements for permits became mandatory with the March 30, 2004 amendment. The registration process provides a way to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly.

- Applications for registration of approximately 250 manure and storage facilities have been received. The applications are being processed, which includes assessment of environmental sensitivity and prioritization for inspection.

- Table RO.1 summarizes enforcement of environmental livestock regulations since 1998. Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and the spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.

- There were 21 manure spills reported to staff during 2004. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings or sections of manure pipelines during pumping. Instructions that have been issued to operators should reduce the frequency of this type of occurrence in the future. There were three significant spills reported. One involved an underground pipeline, in a remote location, that ruptured and spilled an estimated 5,000,000 litres in a confined area over the course of the winter. The second instance involved the failure of a valve at the base of a storage tank. Approximately 1,700,000 litres were spilled before the rupture could be sealed. The third incident involved approximately 4,680,000 litres of accumulated rainwater that became contaminated with manure during pumping. All spills were properly cleaned-up and none pose a long-term risk to the environment.

- Extension efforts continue to be a priority for the program. Staff take every opportunity to meet with or otherwise contact livestock producers, producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements. Visit the web site at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/regoperations/livestock/index.html.

Table RO.28
12.3(i) Livestock Operations Support

Expenditures by Total Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	243.7	6.00	424.2	(180.5)	1.
Other Expenditures	322.5		662.9	(340.4)	2.
Total 12.3(i)	**566.2**	**6.00**	**1,087.1**	**(520.9)**	

1. Under expenditure primarily due to delayed implementation of the Livestock Manure and Mortalities regulations and program.
2. Delay in program implementation due to delay in enactment of Livestock, Manure and Mortalities regulation as well as clarification of legal issues. Delay in filling three positions resulting in reduced operating expenditures.

Environmental Operations

Environmental Operations directs and co-ordinates the environmental programs including the environmental livestock programs, dangerous goods programs and public health programs in the field through operational guidelines, development of policy and procedures, and liaison with environmental Branches and external agencies. Cost-effective use of resources is ensured through operational guidelines, policies, procedures, organizational standards and controls, monitoring effectiveness, financial controls, and reporting.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Petroleum Storage Program

- The Petroleum Storage Program manages the installation, alteration, removal and testing of regulated petroleum storage facilities. There are 4,922 storage sites in Manitoba that are or have previously been registered with Manitoba Conservation. These include active facilities, inactive facilities and locations at which the storage tanks and associated piping have been removed (dismantled sites). Of the 4,922 sites, 2,297 are listed as still active. 1,469 of these have Permits to Operate, required as of April 1, 2005. 828 either have not applied for a Permit, are not regulated under provincial jurisdiction, or are inactive. 214 facilities are listed as inactive; the facility is no longer operating, but the petroleum storage tanks have not been removed. 2,271 facilities have been successfully decommissioned since 1976.

- Sixty-eight permits to construct new facilities were issued in 2004.

- The implementation of Licensing of Petroleum Technicians began as of December 29, 2003. Only Licensed Petroleum Technicians may construct, alter, remove or perform certain tests on petroleum storage facilities. Prospective technicians must meet specific criteria which includes both a course of study and field experience. The applications are reviewed by an Advisory Committee established by the Minister of Conservation and recommendations are made to the Director regarding which applicants are worthy of receiving a Licence. Currently there are 110 Petroleum Technicians licensed in Manitoba.

Contaminated/Impacted Sites Program

- Approximately 2,200 impacted sites in the Manitoba Sites Database are tracked in the Environmental Management System, seven of which have been designated as contaminated under *The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act*:

- All identified contaminated sites with contamination greater than lowest applicable guideline values, including those not designated as Contaminated Sites, are tracked to ensure public safety and health and environmental protection. Sites that threaten human health and/or the environment are designated.

- Technical expertise from Headquarters was provided to regions on contaminated sites.

Hazardous Waste Program

- There are more than 8,000 hazardous waste registrations in the Manitoba Conservation database including 5,926 active hazardous waste generator registrations. During the fiscal year 2004-05, 398 Hazardous Waste Registration forms were processed. Over 29,000 manifest copies (copy 1 from the waste generator and copy 3 submitted by the receiver of the waste) were processed; this translates into approximately 15,000 manifests (shipping documents for the "cradle to grave" tracking system for hazardous waste). Five EcoCentre/used oil depot licences were processed, as were nine used oil burner licences and 62 authorizations for the disposal of waste polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Program

- In 2004, there were approximately 100 enforcement staff, including RCMP, Highways Compliance Officers, Environment Officers, and City of Winnipeg Police, with the responsibility of enforcing the Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations in Manitoba.

- Enforcement includes regular on-highway inspections at weigh scales, and special enforcement operations such as 24 hour blitzes, road check programs, and random inspection roadblocks.

- Manitoba Conservation facilitated the training of all the enforcement staff in the new Federal highway tank standards developed to help ensure the safe transport of dangerous goods on our highway system. Enforcement staff can now inspect highway transport containers to ensure they meet the tough standards established for construction, selection for use, and testing / retesting of highway tanks and portable tanks.

- Manitoba Conservation continues to represent Manitoba's interests in the transportation of dangerous goods at the Federal / Provincial Transportation of Dangerous Goods Task Force in Ottawa, and the Western Compliance Working Group.

Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Program

- The Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) program receives approximately 1,700 applications for an OWMS to be installed in Manitoba each year. A requirement of the regulation is that installers must be certified and haulers must be registered by our department. As part of certification installers have to successfully complete the OWMS Red River College course. To date approximately 339 installers have completed the OWMS Red River College course and 203 installers have been certified. 130 haulers have registered. The registration and certification is valid for five years.

- The Department continued to provide guidance and training for the Environment Officers that inspect Onsite Wastewater Management Systems, including information and inspection procedures on alternative systems.

- The OWMS group worked with installers following the first year of implementation of the regulation and requested feedback: positive and negative on the regulation. This information was presented to the OWMS committee for evaluation of the regulation and to ensure that the intent of the regulation can be used in a practical aspect in the field that will benefit the environment.

- Program development over the past year concentrated on:
  - Working in conjunction with Manitoba Water Stewardship for the evaluation of OWMS and hydraulic loading.
  - Presentations to the Real Estate Appraisal Board and the Water Services Board on the scope of the regulation.
  - Assisted Red River College in the delivery of the OWMS course throughout Manitoba.
  - Participated in meetings with Canadian Standards Association and Canadian Water and Waste Association to develop a national standard for OWMS.
  - Attended the Alberta OWMS Association as a presenter and as a learning experience on new innovative technology.
  - Development of a soils matrix to deal with sizing OWMS that are out of scope of the regulation.

Public Health Program

- Through its Public Health Inspection program the department continues to protect the public health and safety of the citizens of Manitoba and its visitors and respond to public health emergencies and issues.

- The department, through its public health inspection staff and regulations under *The Public Health Act*, carries out an extensive compliance and enforcement program in many areas that are directly linked to public health and safety. The department's Public Health Inspectors have been instrumental in the implementation and enforcement of *The Non Smoker's Health Protection Act* which protects against exposure to second hand smoke in all enclosed workplaces and public places in Manitoba.

- In addition, the departments' Public Health Inspectors work closely with Manitoba Health and the Medical Officers of Health in each of the Regional Health Authorities as well as the Drinking Water Officers within the Department of Water Stewardship.

- Recognizing the importance of the Public Health Program to the citizens of Manitoba, the department has implemented a Public Health Inspector Student Bursary Program to encourage prospective candidates to complete their educational requirements for certification by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors for future employment with the department as Public Health Inspectors.

- The major public health activities are in such program areas as:
  - Food services and handling establishments inspection and compliance program
  - Investigation of foodborne illness incidences
  - Enforcement of the provisions of *The Non Smokers Health Protection Act*
  - Swimming pool and whirlpool inspection and compliance program
  - Communicable disease investigations
  - Investigation of unsanitary conditions, particularly in the area of housing
  - Inspection of daycares, nursery schools, residential care facilities and recreational camps
  - Respond to issues and problems associated with semi-public and private water supplies
  - Enforcement of a number of City of Winnipeg By-laws in the areas of food premises, housing, tattoo parlors, derelict vehicles and litter.

- The department played a major role in the recent review and development of the proposed amendments to the *Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation* under *The Public Health Act* which will further facilitate the protection of the health and safety of all those that use these facilities. The department is also reviewing and updating its guidelines respecting the sampling and reporting of swimming pool and whirlpool water samples.

Table RO.29

12.3(j) Environment Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	650.0	12.00	726.4	(76.4)	
Other Expenditures	56.5		60.0	(3.5)	
Total 12.3(j)	**706.5**	**12.00**	**786.4**	**(79.9)**	

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests, wildlife and air) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development. This includes promotion pollution prevention activities and special projects such as the decommissioning of the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Laboratories.

Conservation Programs Division comprises:

- Parks and Natural Areas Branch
- Forestry Branch
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch
- Pollution Prevention Branch
- Lands Branch
- Air Quality Section
- Geomatics and Remote Sensing Section

Table CP.1
12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	158.7	2.00	178.1	(19.4)	
Other Expenditures	321.2		381.4	(60.2)	
Total 12.4(a)	**479.9**	**2.00**	**559.5**	**(79.6)**	

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

- A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote hunting.

- Support for youth hunting events that provide a mentored educational experience to encourage an interest in hunting among Manitoba's youth. The purpose is to introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youth and adults to experience the outdoors together and to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of game birds. Hunts are focused primarily on waterfowl but now include wild turkeys.

- Financial assistance (Chambers/Colomb Assistantships) to four students at the University of Manitoba.
  - an ATV use policy for Crown lands
  - gull hazard to aircraft - greater Winnipeg area
  - urban deer management in Manitoba
  - the value of hunting to Manitoba

- Development of land management strategies such as forestry plans and practices to prevent the loss of threatened woodland caribou. A few animals from selected ranges are equipped with GPS collars to enable biologists to track their movements and thereby identify winter and summer ranges. Data are used to identify habitat preferences and requirements.

- Monitoring urban goose populations within Winnipeg and implementing measures to reduce goose populations as well as providing some compensation to golf courses.

- A mail in hunter survey to assist with assessing big game populations.

- An aerial survey of white-tailed deer in the Birds Hill Park and surrounding area. The population within the park is estimated at 277 animals and another 394 were recorded in the surrounding area.

- Activities to maintain the integrity and habitat value of wildlife management areas (WMAs). This involved upkeep on the signage that identifies the boundary of WMAs, restoration of habitat for sharp-tailed grouse, and ongoing control of noxious weeds.

- Support to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre that provides diagnostic services and valuable information and management advice on wildlife diseases.

- A Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance program. Samples from 558 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer and 123 elk were collected and tested for CWD. None of the animals tested positive for the disease.

Table WH.1
12.4(b) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	221.1		225.0	(3.9)	
Total 12.4(b)	**221.1**		**225.0**	**(3.9)**	

Parks & Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for provincial parks, ecological reserves and Canadian heritage rivers, managing these areas for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Administration

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals, and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. Administration provides many functions including administrative support, human resources, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met, and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Director of Parks and Natural Areas is the province's representative on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council. Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), and Federal-Provincial Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

Table PA.1
12.4(c)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	533.2	5.00	439.7	93.5	1.
Other Expenditures	368.9		291.9	77.0	2.
Grant Assistance	191.2		191.2	0.0	
Total 12.4(c)1	**1,093.3**	**5.00**	**922.8**	**170.5**	

1. Over expenditure due to unanticipated increase in the number of Workers Compensation days per claim.
2. Over expenditure due to unanticipated legal and refund costs.

Planning and Development

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity.
- Preserve unique and representative natural and cultural heritage resources.
- Provide outdoor recreation and education in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves. It manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba and co-ordinates provincial input to national park establishment initiatives. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Park System Planning

This program guides park establishment, use and management through consultation with the public and First Nations regarding proposed parks and park expansions, including such factors as boundaries, park classification and role, and appropriate Park Land Use Categories. A major function at present is public consultation required to convert Park Reserves to permanent provincial designations. Major projects included:

- Designation of Manigotagan River Provincial Park to preserve the river's water quality and aquatic and shoreline habitats and provide a backcountry setting for activities such as canoeing and traditional cultural activities that depend on a largely undisturbed environment.

- Extension of the Chitek Lake Park Reserve designation to provide additional time for the community to review options for final designation.

- Addition of scarce mixed-grass prairie land with pre-settlement cultural values to Rivers Provincial Park, doubling the size of the park.

- Extension of the Poplar River Park Reserve designation to enable a community-based land use study to be incorporated into a final designation and to support ongoing work towards a proposed World Heritage Site.

- Extension of the Duff Roblin Park Reserve designation to enable any recommendations from the Red River Floodway Expansion Recreational Initiative to be included in the final designation.

- Completion of boundary changes to Camp Morton, Norris Lake and Memorial parks to accommodate highways upgrades, and to Elk Island, Hecla/Grindstone and Duck Mountain parks to ensure the integrity of the protected land use categories.

- An agreement was completed to facilitate a land exchange resulting in the addition of river bottom forest land to Beaudry Provincial Park.

Management Planning

The Provincial Parks Act requires creation of a management plan for each Park. Plans are working tools for managers in making decisions on major issues. Public involvement is integral to Plan preparation.

- The management planning process for Duck Mountain Park continued with the distribution of the report on public comments from the 2003 public drop-ins in November 2004. Revisions continue to be made to the management plan, and work is continuing on several of the more challenging issues.

- Implementation of the Grand Beach Management Plan continued with the completion of the concession area and preparations for a sand dune monitoring study.

Design and Development

This program provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection and Manitoba Tourism, and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee.

- Major projects included participation in the cottaging and camping initiatives and other initiatives aimed at increasing environmentally friendly campgrounds.

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves are established under ***The Ecological Reserves Act*** to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

Two ecological reserves were designated throughout the year, and work continued on concluding reviews of previously nominated sites for future designations. The following significant progress occurred:

- Little George Island Ecological Reserve was designated May 18, 2004.
- Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserve was designated November 30, 2004.
- The boundaries of two additional sites in the Porcupine Provincial Forest recommended as ecological reserves were finalized, and work began on completing their review and the process of designating them.

The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee, appointed under the Act, met three times during 2004-2005 to review sites and advance the program. The Committee submitted nominations for two new sites to the Minister and withdrew one previously nominated site.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

This program manages rivers that satisfy the System's criteria, applying national recognition to conserve and interpret outstanding heritage. The Seal and Bloodvein Rivers are designated Heritage Rivers, while the Hayes River is a candidate.

Management planning for the Hayes River continued with public review of the draft management plan in May and June of 2004. A summary report of the consultations was prepared and distributed to all participants in December. The plan was revised and a final review process was begun. Completion of the plan is targeted for 2005. Submission of the plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System will allow the Hayes River to be moved forward to full status as a Canadian Heritage River.

Rivers West continued its initiative to nominate the Red River to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System by conducting information meetings about the potential nomination with municipalities, First Nations and interest groups throughout the year. General public consultations were held in early 2005. The Red will be nominated to the System in 2005.

Rivers West was awarded the 2007 Canadian River Heritage Conference by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

National Parks Initiative

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for Manitoba's involvement in the proposal to establish a national park in the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region. It does this in cooperation with Parks Canada Agency. Subsequent to the signing of a Federal/Provincial MOU in March of 2004, preparations began for a consultation process on the proposed park as required by the MOU.

Table PA.2
12.4(c)2 Planning and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	660.0	10.00	590.9	69.1	
Other Expenditures	113.2		125.7	(12.5)	
Total 12.4(c)2	**773.2**	**10.00**	**716.6**	**56.6**	

Park Districts

Park Districts administers the Vacation Home Lot Program, commercial operations, land use activities, water quality, and sewage and solid waste disposal. The costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, and water, sewer and other municipal type services provided to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program.

Vacation Home Program

The Program administers about 6,000 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks. 370 assignments and 157 collateral security recordings were processed, 279 *Leases* were renewed and new *Leases* issued, and 327 *Permits* issued for cottage construction or structural modification. This program generated $4.7 million in revenue. There were 400 leasehold inspections carried out.

Commercial Operations

This unit manages relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. Approximately 160 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions. Also, 45 special-consideration organizations conduct educational and religious programs.

Land Use Activities

Permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.

Table PA.3
12.4(c)3 Park Districts

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	301.8	7.00	325.8	(24.0)	
Other Expenditures	42.7		54.4	(11.7)	
Total 12.4(c)3	**344.5**	**7.00**	**380.2**	**(35.7)**	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Regional Operations Division operates and maintains Parks to provide high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while ensuring compliance with provincial laws.

Table PA.4
12.4(c)4 Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	11,480.6	225.80	11,458.5	22.1	
Other Expenditures	4,246.0		4,517.9	(271.9)	1.
Total 12.4(c)4	**15,726.6**	**225.80**	**15,976.4**	**(249.8)**	

1. Under expenditure due to parks enhancement projects which were not completed, including those impacted by unseasonable high rain fall in the fall.

Support Services

The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation. The section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation program in Manitoba Provincial Parks and designs, implements, and evaluates new initiatives in campground, day-use, and backcountry management, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The section is also responsible for the branch's Interpretation program.

Marketing

Initiatives included:

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive communication strategy for the parks program in conjunction with Communication Services;
- Promoted park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases, and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping and Reservation Service. Also included is the distribution of promotional materials to community events, non-profit organizations and youth groups.
- Reprinted a variety of publications including *Parks Reservation Service*, *Family Vacation Cabins*, *Fall Camping*, Group Use, Volunteer Campground Host and Parks Guide.
- Advertised in *Woodall's North American Campground Directories* and the CAA Campbook; and
- Continued to make enhancements to the Manitoba Parks Website in order to best serve client needs and effectively communicate provincial parks programming.

Staff participated in provincial tourism committees and workshops to improve positioning in tourism strategies and promotional campaigns. The section participated in the RV Show to increase awareness of Parks and Park programs.

Outdoor Recreation Programs

About 4.8 million people visited provincial parks. 5,915 campsites were available, including 4,392 transient sites (of which 2,737 or 62.2 percent were available for reservation), and 1,564 seasonal sites. 168,789 transient camping nights and 45,720 seasonal nights were recorded.

Reservations were offered in 38 campgrounds, 22 group-use areas and two cabin locations through the Parks Reservation Service. A total of 36,314 reservations were made, down 495 from the previous year, or a decrease of approximately 1% percent. Web reservations accounted for 38% of all sales.

New initiatives included introduction of the Camping Initiative campground enhancements. Nutimik Lake – 30 electrical sites; Watchorn – 22 electrical sites; Stephenfield 51 electrical sites and 36 electrical/water sites; Blue Lakes – 36 electrical sites; Hecla 14 electrical sites, 15 electrical/water sties; Paint Lake – 20 electrical sites. Note: all improvements have been to pre-existing basic campsites.

Beach Safety

The Support Services Section provides program planning (both long term strategic planning and operational planning), policy development and program support for the Beach Safety program in Manitoba Provincial Parks. Initiatives included:

- Completed development of a comprehensive Beach Safety program policy and a program manual to guide the activities of contractors.
- Implemented a provincial Beach Safety signing strategy and initiated work on implementing standardizing buoy lines.
- Reviewed and updated site assessments for individual park beaches and initiated preparation of a provincial risk management plan.
- Worked with the Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters on the updating of Manitoba waterfront safety guidelines.

Interpretation

The program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs, complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management.

Delivery of the field program includes a full-time interpreter at Birds Hill, and 21 seasonal (May-September) interpreters. Programs are presented at Spruce Woods, Hecla/Grindstone, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Whiteshell, St. Norbert, St. Malo, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road and Turtle Mountain provincial parks. In addition, 18 Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted about 90,000 visitors at field programs and in interpretive centres and museums.

The following is a list of projects completed by the Interpretation Unit to help enhance the visitor's experience:

- New "Tallgrass-Parkland" self-guiding trail at St. Malo Provincial Park.
- New Interpretive Park Map for Beaudry Provincial Park.
- New Interpretive signage and photograph upgrading for Camp Morton Provincial Park.
- New Interpretive natural history signage for Netley Creek Provincial Park.
- Concept Plan for the revision and redevelopment of displays for the Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary Interpretation Centre, Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Table PA.5
12.4(c)5 Support Services

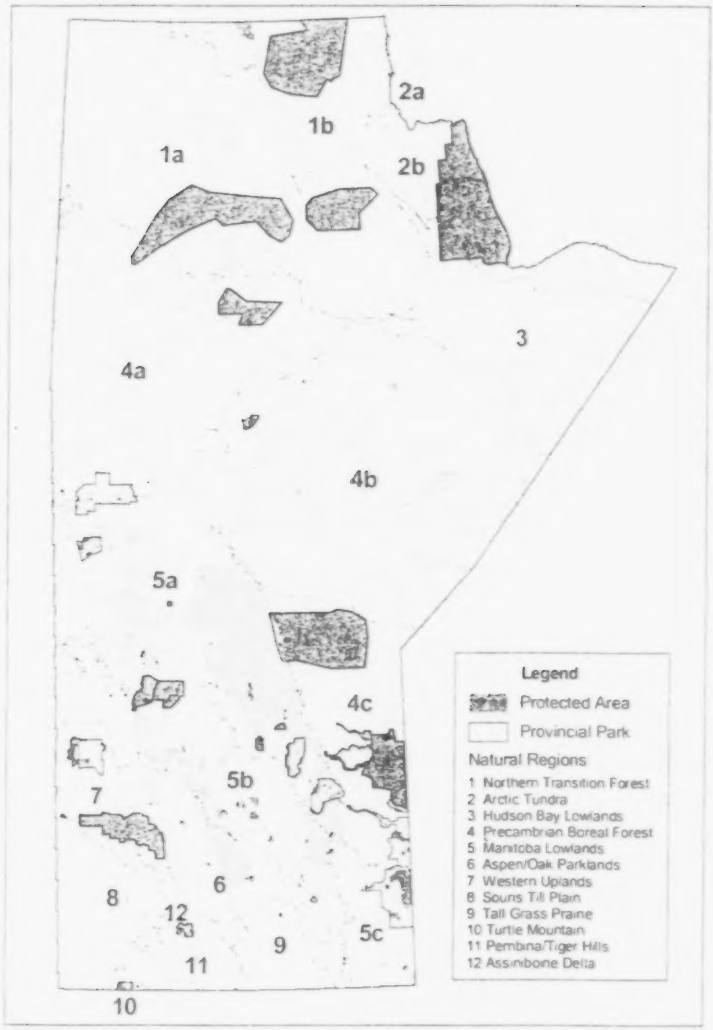
Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	502.7	9.00	481.7	21.0	
Other Expenditures	243.9		220.4	23.5	
Total 12.4(c)5	**746.6**	**9.00**	**702.1**	**44.5**	

Protected Areas Initiative

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and private lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Figure 5: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.



The PAI's role is to work cooperatively within Manitoba Conservation (primarily with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection, Forestry, Parks and Natural Areas, and Aboriginal Relations), and with staff from other government departments with roles and responsibilities concerning land and resource use or allocation (primarily Industry, Economic Development, and Mines; Water Stewardship; Transportation and Government Services) to design and establish protected areas. It is also the responsibility of the PAI to review protected areas proposals with the forestry and mining sectors, First Nations and Northern Affairs communities, and other stakeholders.

Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. The Eastern Region Integrated Technical Team took three protected areas proposals in Natural Region 4c (Tembec's Forest Management License #1) out for review and comment. Work continued this year to identify land owned by conservation agencies within Agro Manitoba that have potential to become protected areas. The PAI has spent considerable time and effort over the past few months standardizing and enhancing the parks and protected areas datasets. Our datasets have been requested by several federal agencies for

national and international initiatives including the National Forest Information System (NFIS) and Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS).

New protected areas established in 2004/05 include:

- Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area
- Little George Island Ecological Reserve
- Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserve
- Designation of Manigotagan River Provincial Park
- Extension of Poplar/Nanowin Park Reserve for 5 years
- Extension of Chitek Lake park reserves for 5 years.
- Extension and expansion of Duff Roblin Park Reserve.
- Private lands of Nature Conservancy Canada recognized.
- Agreement to work with Accord First Nations and Ontario on a World Heritage site, 83,000 ha of Boreal Forest in Eastern Manitoba.

Table PA.6
12.4(c)6 Protected Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	219.8	3.00	197.0	22.8	
Other Expenditures	75.5		115.0	(39.5)	
Total 12.4(c)6	**295.3**	**3.00**	**312.0**	**(16.7)**	

Air Quality Management

To ensure the sustainable use of our air quality resources for the benefit of citizens today, while safeguarding these resources for future generations, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern,
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines,
- Undertakes special project investigations,
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public,
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports,
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing,
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies, and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	11
Support to major Department priorities	9
The Environment Act *and* ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***	
Proposals/Licenses: Reviewed	35 / 16
Comments provided	12 / 6
Review of air dispersion modelling reports/source sampling reports	17
Participation in standard development/implementation (Canada-wide Standards)	4
Requests for information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	50

[1] both sites operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

Highlights of the Section's activities for 2004/05 included:

- Outdoor air quality monitoring successfully continued at the established provincial sites; the air quality monitoring activities of others as required under regulation were audited.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with Inco Limited – Manitoba Operations for the implementation and operation of an expanded outdoor air quality monitoring network (for particulate matter and selected heavy metals) in the community of Thompson.
- New replacement air quality monitoring equipment and peripherals for the NAPS-related program were received for a number of air contaminants (particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and air quality data handling system upgrades) – all of these enhancements were placed into network operation.
- Annual air quality statistics for the year 2003 were completed and made publicly available. Release of the real-time hourly-updated air quality index (AQI) continued for the downtown Winnipeg air monitoring site.
- The field portion of the special project to investigate air quality in the Transcona area of Winnipeg was completed.

- A special project to track air quality potentially impacted by nearby intermittent fall time agricultural burning of residue was conducted in the south-western portion of Winnipeg.
- Technical support was provided to the Department's review of its base metal smelter emissions strategy and potential environmental impacts from atmospheric acidic deposition.
- A review of arsenic-in-air levels in the Flin Flon area from the long-term air quality monitoring program was started.
- A review and assessment of options for addressing air emission releases from incineration were undertaken.
- Canada-Wide Standards: participation continued in the development of the CWS for mercury release from coal-fired electricity generation; provincial implementation of national standards for particulate matter, ozone, dioxins/furans and mercury continued.
- The Department's Emergency Response Team was supported by assisting with the response function.
- Operation of the Department's environmental management system (EMS) was supported by participating in the training of users.

Table AQ.2
12.4(d) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	286.5	4.00	274.6	11.9	
Other Expenditures	63.5		71.1	(7.6)	
Grant Assistance	1.5		2.8	(1.3)	
Total 12.4(d)	**351.5**	**4.00**	**348.5**	**3.0**	

Forestry

Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic, and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users; harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The Branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry, emphasising efficient utilization. To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic, and environmental values at risk. The Branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on provincial Crown land, private woodlots, and urban forests.

Forestry Branch oversees activity effectiveness to meet goals, reviews Forest Management Plans, and guides and informs Regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures.

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including two representatives who sit as Directors. The Department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organisations, industry, and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, funded by the Federal government.

The Branch manages and administers a grant of $200,000 provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund for the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the South-eastern, Interlake and Western portions of the province. The Branch also provides a grant of $23,400 and staff involvement to support educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures conformity to Department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and Department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures, and co-ordinates development of the annual work plan.

Table FO.1
12.4(e)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	352.3	6.00	306.5	45.8	
Other Expenditures	405.7		322.5	83.2	1.
Grant Assistance	23.4		23.4	0.0	
Total 12.4(e)1	**781.4**	**6.00**	**652.4**	**129.0**	

1. Over-expenditure primarily due to higher than anticipated legal costs related to the softwood lumber dispute.

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis Section is responsible and accountable for the development of programs that ensure the sustainable management and use of forest resources on Crown lands.

Primary areas of responsibility include developing and maintaining information on forested land and resources, establishing sustainable allowable annual harvest levels, and assessing and reporting on forest sustainability.

As part of its forest management stewardship responsibilities, the Forestry Branch calculates and manages harvest levels (Annual Allowable Cut) for the entire province. The Section maps and determines type and productivity of forest stands, and tracks changes due to fire, harvesting, and other impacts. Timber harvest is managed by setting harvest levels and planning requirements, and is delivered by Regional staff through plan approvals, enforcement, and inspections.

The Forest Inventory program's responsibility is to develop and maintain a database and digital geographic information system for Provincial Forest Resource Inventory. Forest fires that occurred in Manitoba's forested land base in 2004 and timber harvest depletions from the eastern and western regions were digitized for entry into Manitoba's digital database. The Section responded to information requests including the distribution of digital and hard copy Forest Inventory information from Department staff, industry, consultants, academics, and the public. The Section's forest modelling software, GIS applications, and related workstations were upgraded. Software maintenance of the Geographic Information System continued to ensure effective management of the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) database, and resource evaluations.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Forest stratification for Forest Management Units (FMU) 11 and 12 was completed and 85% of FMU 11 was photo interpreted. FMU 10 was mapped for land cover change using satellite imagery and 25% the existing forest cover maps were updated.

- As part of the National Forestry Inventory Program, 29 long term ecosystem monitoring plots were randomly established across Manitoba's eco-zones to measure provincial, national, and international reporting requirements related to forest growth, sustainability, and climate change.

- The Forest Productivity group re-measured 56 permanent sample plots throughout the province. Ecologically based taper equation report was finalized and forest productivity tables were completed for use throughout the Province. Volume sampling was undertaken and completed in FMU 10. The volume sampling design was completed for the Saskatchewan River Forest Section and a small field sampling program was carried out by Swampy Cree Tribal Council in partnership with Waugh's Woods Ltd. Yield curves at various utilization levels were completed for use in the Tembec wood supply analysis project.

- The Resource Analysis group completed the wood supply analysis and a technical report for the Duck and Porcupine Mountain areas based on the $2.2 million forest lands inventory developed in partnership with Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. (LP). The calculated wood supply reflects current forest management strategies and timber utilization practiced by the forest industry and accounts for landbase reductions associated with Treaty Land Entitlement selections, proposed ecological reserves, and protected areas.

- The resource analysis group continued work on the new wood supply for Forest Management License Agreement #1 and FMU 35. The technical advisory committee provided information required to update the forest inventory for depletion and renewal activities, define forest management practices, operable land base, and identify constraints to wood supply modeling.

Table FO.2
12.4(e)2 Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,035.8	17.00	945.6	90.2	
Other Expenditures	426.8		720.4	(293.6)	1.
Total 12.4(e)2	**1,462.6**	**17.00**	**1,666.0**	**(203.4)**	

1. Under expenditure primarily due to delay in volume sampling contract.

Forest Health and Renewal

The Section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management, ensures all harvested Crown forest land is renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, and advises and assists the public and industry on forest health and renewal issues.

The Forest Renewal Program (delivered by Regional Operations) is administered and co-ordinated by this Section. The Department and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 7,497 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted (13.1 million trees) with scarification to promote natural regeneration on the rest. Except for some Department planting in Eastern Region and two non-tendered contracts to a First Nation, delivery of the provincial planting program was through tendered contracts.

Of the estimated 10,109 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2003-2004, 21% (2,122 ha) was treated for reforestation in 2004-2005, and the rest left to regenerate naturally or be treated in future. This is a significant drop from previous years and is primarily due to the shift by the forest industry to plant more trees on unprepared sites – so even though the area treated for reforestation dropped, the number of trees to be planted did not. Expanding harvest of poplar (about 33% of harvested area over the past five years) increased area left to regenerate naturally, as poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 129 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently was retreated by planting.

The Section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates use with Regional Operations. Renewal technology transfer to Region staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC) comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Regeneration Assessment

- Tembec/Pine Falls Paper and Tolko Manitoba hired contract surveyors for regeneration surveys and staff to check survey results. Louisiana-Pacific utilizes company staff to survey. The Section tested Branch, contract, and company surveyors. Tembec completed surveys with four individuals, Tolko, and Louisiana-Pacific both contracted out their surveys to the same company. The contractor's 12 surveyors were trained and certified, along with the Department's six. All obtained Regeneration Surveyor Licenses. An audit of Tembec, Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific surveys and check surveys was successful, and Certificates of Reforestation were issued. The

successful re-certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year.

- Regeneration surveys to determine success of forest renewal were performed on 15,242.5 hectares. The Branch surveyed 2,600 hectares while licensed regeneration surveyors from Tolko surveyed 5,986 hectares, Louisiana-Pacific surveyed 4,946 hectares, and Tembec surveyed 1,710 hectares.

- The Branch performed Free-to-Grow (FTG) surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 15-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, full and extensive. Full-survey technique was used on 2,221 hectares and extensive technique on 1,379 hectares. Branch Staff trained surveyors from Tembec and Tolko's contractor to perform FTG surveys, which they then conducted on 2,696 and 3,682 hectares respectively. Louisiana-Pacific is scheduled to commence FTG surveys in 2008.

Insects and Diseases

- Surveys, efficacy tests, and research on significant insects and diseases were conducted. Significant pests included spruce budworm, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, forest tent caterpillars, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, Armillaria root rot, and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data was collected in regeneration, FTG, and pre-harvest surveys, to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands.

- Spruce budworm infested about 101,931 hectares. About 5,522 hectares of spruce/fir were moderately to severely defoliated in Tembec's Forest Management License Area (FMLA), and in Nopiming, Whiteshell, and Hecla Provincial Parks. There was no defoliation mapped in Duck Mountain Provincial Forest, in Louisiana-Pacific's FMLA. In Tolko's FMLA the infestation decreased to 73,715 hectares in the Northwest Region. In the Northeast Region severe defoliation was fairly localised in the Paint Lake area. The outbreak in Spruce Wooos increased from 14,005 in 2003 to 22,694 hectares in 2004. Emergency funding was provided to enable spraying the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic, on 17,900 hectares in the Northwest Region (Tolko's FMLA). Jack pine budworm populations remained low.

Dutch Elm Disease

- Dutch elm disease (DED) management seeks to reduce annual mortality to 2% or less by cost-shared agreements with municipal governments. The program manages DED in 38 significant urban areas in Manitoba to protect their existing elm shade trees populations. Major urban centres participating in cost-sharing agreements with the Provincial DED program are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk, and Swan River. Forestry Branch has launched a number of initiatives to further improve DED management in this province.

- There were 8,370 elms marked for removal in cost-share communities and the Winnipeg buffer zone. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman), and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2005, 8,412 elms were removed from 38 cost-share communities and seven urban-buffer-zone municipalities. The program expects to remove all the diseased elms by the end of spring.

- Since spring of 2004, the DED program is using the Urban Forestry Information System (UFIS). This is a spatial database system used for tracking DED surveys and operations.

- In late August, the DED program implemented a basal application program in the Winnipeg buffer-zone in the RM of Ritchot. A total of 2,476 elm trees along the banks of the Red River were treated. Disease incidence along riverbanks has been persistently high for many years. It is thought that DED spreads into urban areas using river areas as corridors. Treatments were

conducted in close co-ordination with the City of Winnipeg, which applied treatments to similar high-density DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal treatments of these areas will result in a significant reduction in the spread of DED into the city.

Table FO.3
Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec/ Pine Falls	Tolko Manitoba	Louisiana-Pacific	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,752	776	3,683	1,286	7,497
Area Retreated (hectares)	129	0	0	0	129
Total Treated Areas	1,881	776	3,683	1,286	7,626
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	3,293	1,160	6,253	2,412	13,118
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,031	288	753	50	2,122
Total Area Tended (hectares)	190	90	0	0	280
General cones collections	14		0.0		14
Seed orchard co-op collections	12	3.0	0.0	6.0	12

Tree Improvement

- The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation, and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of seven government/industry co-operatives with Tolko Manitoba, LP Canada, Tembec, and six provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide the technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff, and a portion of the costs is billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

- There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake, and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake, and Southeast breeding zones. In 2004 approximately 25% of all seedlings planted across the province originated from genetically improved seed. All plantations originating from improved seed have been entered into the tree improvement database. Jack pine and black spruce programs in the Mountain Breeding Zone and a black spruce program in the Highrock Breeding Zone will provide genetically improved seed in the future.

- Fifteen-year measurements were completed at the four white spruce family tests in the Mountain Breeding Zone – the analysis of these measurements was contracted to a forest geneticist. The fifteen-year family test measurement data from the Lake Winnipeg East was contracted to a forest geneticist for analysis. The results of these test assessments will be used to thin the seed orchards in their respective breeding zones to improve genetic gain. The black spruce seed orchard at Axis Lake in the Nelson River Breeding Zone was thinned for the first time based on the analysis of the 10-year measurements of the associated family tests.

- In conjunction with the Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis section a strategy to establish genetic gain tests to determine the genetic gain achieved from seed originating from seed orchards has been prepared.

- The Tree Improvement section in conjunction with the Canadian Forest Service are continuing work with the Hybrid Poplar Clonal Trials established near Piney, Killarney, Stead, Vassar, and Oakbank. The tests are part of the Afforestation Clonal Transect Trial which tests 11 different hybrid clones across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta to determine which clone is best suited to the different environments across the prairies.

Table FO.4
12.4(e)3 Forest Health and Renewal

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,339.3	20.06	1,644.8	694.5	1.
Other Expenditures	2,928.9		3,577.3	(648.4)	1.
Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,237.4)		(1,289.6)	52.2	
Total 12.4(e)3	**4,030.8**	**20.06**	**3,932.5**	**98.3**	

1. Funds that were originally estimated to be classified as operating costs were classified as salary and employee benefits costs.

Forest Management and Development

The Section provides direction to regional forestry offices and forestry companies in Manitoba on forest management and forest industry development. Together with companies granted Forest Management Licences, Manitoba Conservation manages forested Crown land to ensure timber harvesting and other forest practices are sustainable and consistent with provincial legislation, policies, and guidelines. The section supports the existing forest industry and promotes new forestry developments. Manitoba's primary forest industry employs about 10,000 people both directly and indirectly.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Forest Industry

- The annual reports for the 3 Forest Management Licence holders (Louisiana Pacific, Tembec, and Tolko Manitoba) indicated that 1,562,707.47m^3 of crown timber were harvested by the FMLs. Timber Returns confirmed the harvest of another 891,190.77m^3 by Quota Holders and other parties for a total provincial harvest of 2,453,898.24m^3. Total Revenue of timber dues, Forest Renewal Charges, and Forest Protection Charges was $7,990,243.26.

- In addition to the three Forest Management Licence areas, forest harvesting on Crown Lands in Forest Management Unit 14 and part of Forest Management Unit 12, is currently being managed by the Mountain Quota Holders Association (MQHA). The Chemawawin Cree Nation and Tolko Industries Ltd. Partnership Arrangement manages timber harvest in northern portions of the Interlake Forest Section.

- Public timber auctions between April 1st, 2004 and March 31st, 2005 resulted in 14 Timber Sale Agreements for a total volume of 7,700 m^3 of softwood and 22,500 m^3 of hardwood. The total revenue received from auction sales was $132,128. Timber dues represented $82,003. The balance of the revenue generated from auction sales was for Forest Renewal Charges ($44,991) and Forest Protection Charges ($5,134).

- On July 1st 2004 Manitoba introduced a new Oriented Strand Board (OSB) hardwood timber classification. The timber dues rate for the new OSB hardwood timber classification was set at $3.15/m^3$ in the most active Forest Management Units.

- In 2004 a new provincial Softwood Field Chip timber classification was introduced following the successful assessment of chipping operations in the Western Region. Procedures were established to measure unmerchantable and softwood smaller than provincial standards that are harvested as chips for the pulp and paper industry. Timber dues are adjusted appropriately for utilizing unmerchantable and small diameter softwood.

Practices

- The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. Two guidebooks on *Forest Roads* and *Brush Disposal* were published and placed on the Forestry Branch website, while work continued on a new *Riparian Management Area* guidebook.

- Two trials involving forest practices were conducted in 2004. A flexible utilization trial to top harvested trees at diameters between 3 and 4" was allowed in selected Forest Management Units in northern Manitoba. A roadside limbing trial was permitted in conjunction with the flexible utilization trial to determine if alternative methods of limbing trees and disposing of the debris could be used that would be as beneficial as limbing in the bush.

- Check Scaling was conducted on all forest management licences in Manitoba. The check scale did not find any irregularities in wood measurement practices.

Table FO.5
12.4(e)4 Forest Management and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	518.5	10.00	552.2	(33.7)	
Other Expenditures	76.4		567.6	(491.2)	1.
Total 12.4(e)4	**594.9**	**10.00**	**1,119.8**	**(524.9)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to unforeseen delays in implementation of the new *Forest Act* and stumpage system.

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) was established in 2003 to promote economic development through the forest industry. At the strategic level, the SFU reports directly to a four-person management committee, comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines, and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on diversification and Aboriginal participation, as well as proper co-ordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit works closely with the other sections within Forestry Branch to ensure proper co-ordination on issues such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, wood tenure, etc.

The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

1. Encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including (a) resource co-management, (b) business ownership, and (c) economic development (training, employment, etc.);
2. Increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products);
3. Fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry; and,
4. Monitor discussions, respond to legal requests, and co-ordinate policy reforms related to the Canada-US softwood lumber trade dispute.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Forintek Canada Corp., a not for profit wood products research organization, established a secondary forest products industry advisor in Winnipeg and a primary industry advisor in The Pas. A $1,037,200 three-year federal-provincial agreement commenced April 1, 2004 to assist Forintek establish in Manitoba. In addition, the federal government has committed to set aside $100,000 specifically for First Nations/Forintek projects. This funding will be used by First Nations to cover the required 25% contribution of funds towards specific projects for community participation.

- Manitoba Conservation commenced the administration of a $200,000 grant to the Northern Forest Diversification Centre in The Pas. However, the financial aspects of this process were transferred to Inter-governmental Affairs, as they are also administering a matching contribution from the Western Economic Diversification Fund. The SFU continues to monitor the activities of the NFDC and represents Manitoba on the Board of Directors.

- The SFU continued to chair a Federal-Provincial First Nations Forestry Working Group comprised of provincial and federal representatives from departments responsible for economic development, forestry, First Nations, or training. The working group provides a communication link between the two levels of government and provides opportunities for federal and provincial governments to jointly address common interests and concerns.

- In 2004, Manitoba Conservation began working with the First Nation Limited Partnership (FNLP) to pursue a major hardwood products development in the Interlake and southeast side of the province. The department and FNLP are seeking an industry partner and, toward that end, the Sustainable Forestry Unit issued a Request for Proposals in February 2005 to identify a suitable industry proponent to work with FNLP.

- The SFU continued to work with Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) to investigate forestry opportunities for member communities.

- The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

- The SFU worked with various provincial and federal departments to provide funding support for a Forestry Advisor position for the West Region Tribal Council (WRTC). WRTC is situated in one of Manitoba's most active and productive forest regions and several member communities have expressed strong interest in increasing their participation in this sector.

Table FO.6
12.4(e)5 Sustainable Forestry Unit

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	264.3	4.00	259.5	4.8	
Other Expenditures	186.2		200.0	(13.8)	
Grant Assistance	200.0		200.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(e)5	**650.5**	**4.00**	**659.5**	**(9.0)**	

Forest Regeneration Stock

Stock grown at Pineland Forest Nursery was purchased for planting by Manitoba Conservation in 2004/2005 (3.32 million seedlings). Another 1.16 million seedlings were purchased from Pineland for planting in Manitoba by Tembec in 2004/2005. Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific purchase seedlings independently. For more information, see the 2004/05 Pineland Forest Nursery Annual Report. In addition, the Branch conducts seed collection, extraction and storage, transporting seedlings to the field, and a stock identification system. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in stock requirements in the future, with the increased renewal responsibilities as a result of timber auction sales and First Nations initiatives.

Table FO.7
12.4(e)6 Forest Regeneration Stock

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	1,184.0		1,185.0	(1.0)	
Total 12.4(e)6	**1,184.0**		**1,185.0**	**(1.0)**	

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at species at risk and habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories, land management, (including native prairie management), and extension initiatives. It is used toward the match required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

Table HE.1
12.4(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	50.0		50.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(f)	**50.0**		**50.0**	**0.0**	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The Branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The Branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Administration

- Grants were made to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (research on wildlife and resource management), the Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management), the Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information), the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program), and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

- The Director continues to represent provincial interests on various local, national and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Advisory Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web site

- The Branch web site continues to expand in order to serve the needs of Manitobans. Through the web, we are able to provide an overview of who we are, what we do, and how to reach us, as well as information on current issues.

- Last year, a section was added to the site regarding black bears in Manitoba. Information is provided for people living or vacationing in areas with high black bear populations on how to prevent unwanted human - bear interactions.

- A new section deals with the issue of orphaned wildlife - how to recognize whether or not an animal is actually orphaned, when to take the necessary steps, and a short synopsis of laws regarding possession of wildlife.

- The wildlife disease section of the web site was updated regularly to provide results of testing done by the Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance Program. New information and statistics were posted as they became available. Hunters were offered maps and information in a printable format for use in the field.

- Big game hunting statistics were introduced to the web site last year, and function as a resource for those interested in big game population trends and harvest statistics in various areas of the province.

- People wishing to visit the Narcisse Snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) were provided with a new resource through the web site. Status reports on snake numbers and den activity are updated every few days during the peak periods, giving prospective visitors an idea of what they will see and when is the best time to plan a trip to the dens. The Narcisse pages now include maps and brochures as well as current information.

- The web site (www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife) has become an important tool for providing additional information to the public. Pertinent and current issues are profiled on the home page, and all branch programs are available through the navigation bar. During the 2004-05 fiscal year, the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch web site received more than 3.5 million visitors.

General Extension

- During the 2004-05 season, displays were staffed at Rural Forum, Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, Dauphin Forage and Beef Days and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

- Other extension activities included: a tour to North Dakota State University Research Ranch in Dickinson, North Dakota; a tour of a twice-over grazing demo site at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve; and a three-day workshop which was held by the Mixed-grass Grazing Project.

- Over the course of the fiscal year, staff from our Sections gave presentations to seven schools on various topics, such as: Manitoba's Conservation Data Centre and Endangered Species Management, Using Biodiversity as a Teaching Tool, Polar Bear Alert Program, Manitoba's *Polar Bear Protection Act*, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Planning for Protection within the Environmental Impact Assessment Process. Staff also presented a half-day workshop on prairie ecosystems for junior high students living near Riding Mountain National Park in which 25 students from 10 schools attended.

- Staff continued to participate in the Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting with the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's: Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment). The event was held at Brandon and 27 Manitoba school teams participated. Swan Valley Regional Secondary School from Swan River won the event and, in July 2004, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in West Virginia, USA.

National Wildlife Week

- National Wildlife Week was celebrated during April 4-10, 2004. This event was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2004 was "Give Backyard Birds Something to Sing About."

- Teacher kits were purchased from CWF and were distributed to all elementary schools in Manitoba.

Legislation

- Seven ministerial regulations under ***The Wildlife Act*** were amended to reflect changes required for hunting and trapping seasons. Ministerial regulation amendments include the creation of a hunting opportunity in game hunting area (GHA) 38 to assist in the mitigation of waterfowl depredation problems within the Rural Municipality of MacDonald.

- Two Order-in-Council regulations under ***The Wildlife Act*** were completed amend a number of trapping areas and to adjust the fees charged for licences and permits.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under ***The Wildlife Act*** and ***The Endangered Species Act***. Subject to federal guidelines, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Export Permits required under the ***Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*** are also issued.

Table WI.1
Wildlife Permits Issued, 2004

Provincial Permits	
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	14
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	126
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	14
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	53
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	8
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	19
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	2
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	1
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	11
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	2
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	1
Species At Risk Permit	5
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	1
Wild Animal Capture Permit	6
Wild Animal Export Permit	711
Wild Animal Import Permit	16
Wild Animal Kill Permit	5
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	31
Wildlife Scientific Permit	21
Applications Denied (all others)	1
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1,053**
Federal Permits	
CITES Export Permit	1,199
Total (Federal Permits):	**1,199**

Table WI.2
12.4(g)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	521.8	9.50	480.5	41.3	
Other Expenditures	357.8		343.7	14.1	
Grant Assistance	207.0		207.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)1	**1,086.6**	**9.50**	**1,031.2**	**55.4**	

Hunting Opportunities

Hunting continues to be a core program and an important focus for Manitoba Conservation. When additional harvests are sustainable, the department continues to explore ways to provide greater access to hunting opportunities. Hunting remains a time-honoured tradition shared by thousands of Manitobans – families, friends and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Simplifying hunting regulations and providing additional opportunities for young hunters are also important goals of the Department.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- Some 3,500 young hunters purchased the Youth Deer and Game Bird Licence, and interest in the special wild turkey licence for youth, introduced last year, is growing. In addition to Waterfowler Heritage Days, young hunters can also participate in other mentoring programs for waterfowl and wild turkey hunting. The success of these initiatives is due to the efforts of many groups and individuals including the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association, and the Netley Marsh Waterfowl Foundation.
- Introducing a province-wide three week rifle deer season, extending hunting hours, introducing special youth hunting licences, and introducing Sunday hunting for game birds and in selected areas for big game are some of the initiatives which have been introduced to benefit Manitoba hunters.
- The Second Deer Licence was re-introduced in Deer Zone E in south-western Manitoba, and in GHAs 17A, 26, 35 and 36 in Deer Zones B and C. Expanding Deer Zone A and introducing a November rifle season provided hunters in this northern deer zone the opportunity to hunt in a fall season concurrent with the moose season, as well as a general rifle (rut) season like most other deer zones. Elk hunters benefited from the introduction of new archery and rifle seasons in GHAs 29 and 29A in the Turtle Mountain. (GHAs are detailed in Figure 6.)
- In an increasing number of cases, hunting opportunities were used in situations where increased harvest was required to mitigate factors such as disease transmission, wildlife damage to agricultural produce, or wildlife/vehicle collisions. In 2004-05, additional deer licences were offered to resident hunters and outfitters in GHAs 23 and 23A with the proviso that samples be submitted to the Department to help track the spread of bovine TB to this species. These efforts were part of the Department's commitment to the bovine tuberculosis (TB) Management Program's goal of effectively eradicating the disease in the Riding Mountain area. Previously the elk population was successfully reduced by offering additional hunting opportunities.
- Removing designated route restrictions for deer hunters in GHA 26 will improve hunter success and increase harvest. Reducing the deer population in this area will help to alleviate the transmission of brain worm from deer to moose and woodland caribou. To help mitigate the problems associated with an expanding fall staging population of Canada geese in and around Winnipeg, resident waterfowl hunting was expanded to private lands inside the perimeter highway

in the Rural Municipality of Macdonald. This will complement the expansion of hunting in the RM of Rosser in 2003.

- In 2004-05, the branch produced and distributed 140,000 hunting guides and 7,000 designated route maps.

Waterfowl Management

- With increasing pressure being placed on wildlife, managers are faced with difficult decisions in trying to balance the needs of wildlife with the demands of today's society. Manitoba Conservation continues to develop and deliver provincial wildlife management programs that protect the integrity of the resource and associated habitats while, at the same time, providing for a variety of uses by the public. Management of Manitoba's waterfowl and wetland resources has been accomplished through direct delivery of the Branch's programs, as well as partnerships involving non-government wildlife organisations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals.

- As Manitoba's human population ages and people have more time to enjoy their recreational time, demands for opportunities to interact with wildlife increase. Managed habitats such as wildlife management areas (WMA), provincial parks and natural wetlands are vital to providing places for the public to view and interact with wildlife. Manitoba Conservation has recognized the benefits of preserving and enhancing these habitats and through direct management, provides safe and accessible areas for public use. WMAs such as Oak Hammock WMA attract large numbers of ducks and geese and receive thousands of visitors each year.

- The demand for opportunities to interact with wildlife also includes consumptive uses such as subsistence use and hunting. Programs directed at recruiting game bird hunters have been expanded to provide more opportunities for Manitoba residents to participate in these traditional uses of the waterfowl resource. Manitoba Conservation has partnered with several non-government organizations to deliver mentored youth hunting programs for interested Manitoba youth. Interest by the public is strong and the program continues to expand annually.

- Conflicts between wildlife and humans have been on the increase for several years, particularly in urban areas. The Department has continued to develop and deliver programs that will reduce the negative impacts of over-abundant wildlife species. These initiatives include expanded hunting opportunities, increased support for mentored youth hunts, experimental studies involving new deterrent techniques, and increased scaring activities at problem sites. Within urban centres, these programs have been utilized to reduce the impact of high numbers of geese where concern for human health and safety is increasing.

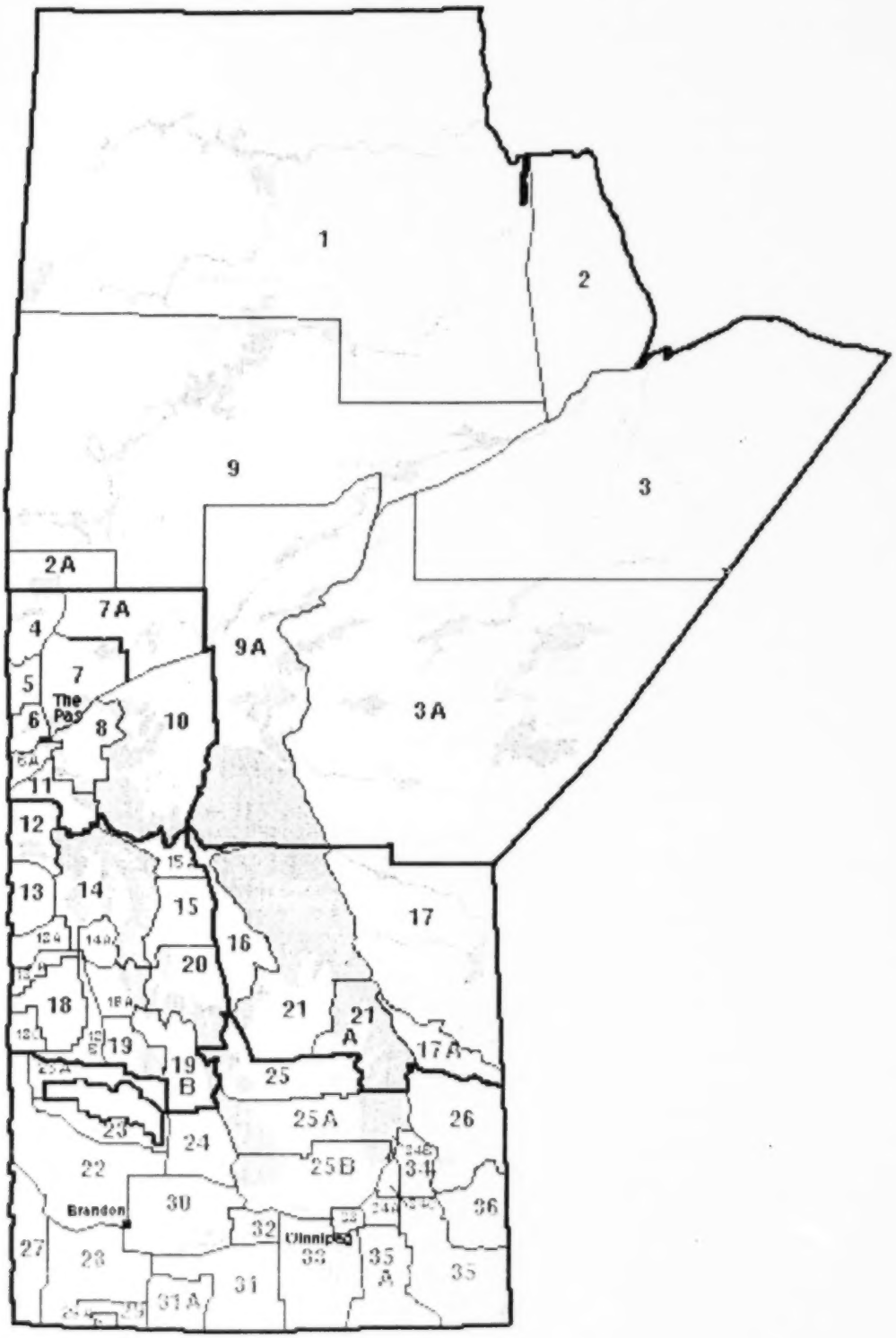
- Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Mississippi Flyway Council and the Arctic Goose Joint Venture.

Upland Game Bird Management

- Population trends for most upland game birds in Manitoba indicate that, where habitat has been maintained, numbers of birds remain relatively stable. Spring weather conditions during nesting and rearing periods has a decisive influence on population status. A late spring and wet conditions have reduced overall production by upland game birds, particularly ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. However, due to the widespread distribution of grouse in Manitoba, the provincial population remains stable. Maintenance of provincial wildlife management areas has been beneficial to upland populations.

- Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba with numbers now exceeding 5,000 birds. Interest in turkeys and turkey hunting has expanded. The hunting opportunity was expanded through the introduction of a youth wild turkey licence at a reduced cost. The Department continued to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas and rural communities.

Figure 6.
Game Hunting Areas



White-Tailed Deer

- Although there was below normal snowfall in November and December, normal winter conditions occurred throughout most of Manitoba and the population experienced average winter mortality. Deer densities were moderate to high across much of the southern half of the province. High numbers in the Red River Valley, where hunting is limited or prohibited, continue to result in substantial damage to speciality crops and landscape plantings. A Second Deer Licence was available in areas south and northeast of Winnipeg. A Third Deer Licence was offered for Deer Zone F, which includes the Red River Valley.

Table WI.3
Deer Hunting Licences Sold

Licence Type	2004-05	2003-04
Resident rifle season	29,599	31,337
Resident bow hunting	2,806	3,075
Resident muzzleloader	7,645	8,327
Resident second deer	7,251	568
Resident third deer	132	144
Non-resident/Canadian deer	724	835
Non-resident/non-Canadian deer	1,602	1,640

Black Bear

- Populations are stable or growing, indicating that current hunting intensity (3,226 hunters) is sustainable. Over the last three years, resident and non-resident participation has remained constant, about 1,300 and 1,900 hunters respectively. Non-resident participation is managed by quota allocations to outfitters and is reviewed every three years. Quality experiences, such as a 75% success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colour phases, attract non-resident hunters.

- Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters, hunter success rates, and sex ratio and age distribution of harvest. A computer model, using hunter harvest data and biological samples from hunters and outfitters, is used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts are examined to determine the number of foetal attachment(s) and premolar teeth provide age; these data are used to calculate age at onset and frequency of lactation.

Moose

- Moose populations remained low in the Turtle Mountain, Duck Mountain, and Riding Mountain areas, due to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations in the past. Moose populations in other areas of the province have remained fairly stable, although below carrying capacity. Discussions continued with First Nations regarding long-term harvest strategies.

- 4,604 (5,020 in 2003-04) resident and 143 (121 in 2003-04) non-resident moose licences were sold.

Elk

- Province-wide, the number of elk has decreased slightly. The Duck Mountain and Porcupine Hills herds remain below target because of increased hunting that slowed recovery after the elk capture program in late 1990s. The Spruce Woods population remains at about 600. The South Interlake herd, which was higher than its population goal of 1,000 set in 2000, is believed to have declined to below 1,000 because of increased hunter harvest. As a result, the number of licences and tags was reduced in 2004 in an attempt to keep the population around 1,000 animals. In the Riding Mountain area, a total of 2,392 elk were observed during a survey flight in February 2004, down from a high of 3,932 animals in 2002. Because of the concern about bovine tuberculosis transmission to cattle, hunting seasons and licence quotas have been used as measures to reduce elk numbers within this region. Now that the population reduction target has been achieved, licence quotas have been adjusted to maintain the population at about 2,500 animals.

- 3,456 (4,783 in 2003-04) elk licences were sold for rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

Caribou

- Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or increasing, while coastal herds (Cape Churchill and Penn Island ranges) are stable. There were 750 (702 in 2003-04) resident and 267 (196 in 2003-04) non-resident licences sold. The non-resident season in GHA 1 benefits the northern communities and lodges, where employment opportunities are limited. Accommodations, guiding and outfitting are primary income-generating services with spin-offs to other sectors.

Diseases in Wildlife

- Bovine tuberculosis is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle and can be transferred to a variety of wildlife species. There is evidence of low-level presence of bovine tuberculosis in the Riding Mountain area, which has been detected in cattle, white-tailed deer and elk. In 2004 bovine tuberculosis was detected in an elk in the Duck Mountain area, but not in cattle. This has implications for agriculture, wildlife management and human health.

- The Department, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Parks Canada Agency, the main program partners, have completed the fourth year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, which features expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication.

- Over 2,900 elk and deer samples have been examined in these areas between 1997 and 2004. Twenty-eight elk from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region, six white-tailed deer harvested in the Grandview area and one elk from the Duck Mountain area have tested positive for the disease over the seven years of monitoring.

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. This disease has been found in captive deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta and several states, and in wild deer and elk in Saskatchewan and several mid-western states. The department will remain vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province. As an active member of the inter-provincial CWD forum, the department will also continue to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices. From 2001 to 2004, the CWD surveillance program tested over 2,390 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples near the Saskatchewan and United States borders in southwestern Manitoba and over 1,470 elk samples from Riding Mountain area. To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were

monitored as infection in wild populations could spread to Manitoba. Several other initiatives were introduced to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids and restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions.

Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

- Allocation of non-resident big game licences through lodges and outfitters allows the Department to closely monitor the non-resident harvest to ensure sustainability while meeting the needs of priority users. The program is regularly reviewed and adjusted to ensure that objectives are met. Allocation procedures provide security of tenure, stability in the industry, ensure a sustainable harvest, and protect the rights of priority users. They also promote resident ownership and economic diversity in local communities.

- Last year, some 2,000 non-resident bear licences, 1,600 non-resident deer licences, 270 non-resident caribou licences and 130 non-resident moose licences were purchased by non-resident alien hunters. These licences are available only through lodges and outfitters, and are included in hunting packages, which are sold at an estimated average cost of $4,000 Canadian each. Sales of big game hunting packages, in addition to non-resident waterfowl hunting, generate over $25 million annually in direct economic benefits. The economic impact of non-resident hunting is very significant to the provincial economy, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Big Game Monitoring

- The dynamics of big game populations are evaluated each year to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:
  - Winter aerial inventories to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
  - Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
  - Biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

These data are entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management plans.

Aerial Surveys

- The 2004-05 aerial survey program was focused on estimating the number of elk in the Duck Mountain area. The 2004 population was estimated to be 1,670, down approximately 14% from the previous estimate of 1,932, in 1999. The Duck Mountain area has had serious problems in the past with elk damage to crops and property. This population estimate indicates that recent management of the herd, with the goal of reducing the number of elk in the area while maintaining hunting opportunity, has achieved the desired goals.

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

- In the annual cycle of the questionnaire program, the analysis of the questionnaires of the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year. In 2003-04, approximately 28,000 questionnaires were mailed and approximately 14,400 responses received. The results are summarized below. The white-tailed deer herd continued to increase, resulting in higher success rates in 2003-04 for all types of deer hunters.

Table WI.4
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2003-2004

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	31,336	23,516
Deer archery	3,075	1,374
Deer muzzleloader	8,328	5,667
Deer (antler-less) second	568	354
Moose rifle	3,227	876
Moose (conservation)	216	30
Moose (draw)	1,525	295
Moose archery	120	2
Moose (draw) archery	39	16
Elk (draw)	3,331	498
Elk (draw) archery	858	72
Elk (draw) landowner	589	163
Black Bear	1,306	516

The questionnaires for the 2004-05 year were mailed and will be analyzed for inclusion in 2005-06 report.

Biological Specimen Collection

- The Section collects biological samples from hunters, who provide teeth and reproductive tracts from black bears. Crests are offered in appreciation for submission of teeth and belt buckles for female reproductive tracts. These rewards contribute to a submission rate of 67% of (estimated) bear harvest. An analysis of the 2003 specimens finds that:
  - 325 female and 1,004 male pre-molars were aged: average age for females was 6.55 years (oldest aged was 33.3 years in 2003) and for males, 4.97 years (oldest aged was 29.5 years in 1996).
  - 251 complete reproductive tracts were examined, identifying 3.11 cubs as average litter for mature females (6+ years) and 2.29 cubs for 2-5 year-olds.

Problem Wildlife

This Unit develops policies, legislation, and programs to address wildlife/human conflicts.

- The expanded Problem Beaver Control Program, consisting of summer removal and winter subsidy components, was implemented for the fourth consecutive year. This program offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and registered trapline districts. The winter subsidy encourages proactive harvest in problem areas during the trapping season when the pelts have market value. The summer removal program addresses beaver problems by encouraging their removal after the trapping season is closed. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the western region around Riding Mountain National Park and the Duck Mountains.

- The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by MCIC, reimburses producers for bear damage to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. In April, MCIC elected to reduce the amount paid for wildlife compensation claims from 100% of assessed value to 80%. Compensation paid for damages caused by deer, elk and bear to standing crops and stored hay amounted to $693,200; a substantial increase from approximately $400,000 paid out in 2003-04. Compensation for waterfowl damage also increased to $1,015,100 from $865,800 in 2003-04 as a result of inclement fall harvest conditions and excessive rainfall in August and September.

Damage to leafcutter bee operations totalled $15,000, while damage to honey operations increased from $60,000 to $83,500.

- This was the 8th year for the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program. The number of predator claims decreased from 946 to 858.

- After a review of policies regarding problem bears over the past year, the Problem Wildlife Unit engaged in consultations with regional operations and stakeholders.

- Over 175,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg last fall. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings. Many airlines continue to be concerned about the threat of large numbers of geese to air traffic. The Urban Goose Working Group continued to investigate the problem and experimented with several devices to deter the geese from using urban ponds and habitat.

Furbearer Management

The program sustains populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Note that harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004.

- Marten are the most valuable and numerous furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2003-04 increased to 20,059 animals compared to 17,897 in the previous year. This species appears to have re-occupied most available habitats in Manitoba in the last two decades. Now numbers and the size of the harvest seem to be correlated with prey availability. The number of prey declined significantly in the summer and fall of 2004 which is expected to disperse marten as they search for food. Because of this they will also be more easily baited, which is likely to significantly increase the harvest for the Fur Year 2004-05. Given the time for prey numbers to rebound, the population cycle may be three to four years long, so a significant drop in 2005-06 marten harvest is expected. This same pattern was seen following the record harvest in 2000-01.

- Lynx populations continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. This population increase was reflected in the number of sightings especially in Southern Manitoba. The 2003-04 provincial harvest of 1,060 lynx suggested that this species has reached the top of its 10-year cycle. The species will continue to be closely monitored and action may be taken as its population cycle begins its predictable downward trend over the next few years.

- Coyote harvests increased for the fifth year in a row (to 8,378) because of good numbers and improved pelt prices.

- Red fox populations remained relatively steady and the harvest was good (2,607) because of strong prices. A significant increase was also seen in otter harvest (3,071 in 2003-04 up from 2,741 in 2002-03) as trappers focussed on this species because of improved prices. The arctic fox population and harvest continued to increase after a prolonged depression in the number of lemmings.

- Continued poor prices for beaver pelt (average of $22.63) caused the harvest to fall to 18,964. At the same time, populations remain high which results in significant problem incidents. The Municipal Beaver Program, which subsidizes municipalities for problem beaver control, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it would have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate municipal flooding.

- Wolverine populations are believed to be stable to increasing, a trend also observed in northwestern Ontario. One animal was trapped in the Bissett area in early 2004, and tracks were also seen in the region east of Lake Winnipeg. A wolverine study near Red Lake, Ontario, had one radio-collared individual wander briefly into Manitoba before returning to Ontario in spring 2004. Wolverines typically depend upon ungulate carrion (dead carcasses) for food, and increased numbers of caribou in the Penn Island herd in northeastern Manitoba have bolstered that food supply for wolverines. At the same time, the Red Lake project is considering whether wolverines in that part of their range depend upon beaver as a food source.

- Bobcat harvest remained high, relative to historic harvest, with 25 taken in 2003-04. Their population increase follows a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba.

- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 7,512 for 2003-04, the fourth consecutive increase. This figure included 145 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, an increase from 117 last year. Graduates, aged 12-17, of the Trapper Education Program join other jurisdictions in this no-fee program for youth trappers.

- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. All approved devices are annually listed in the *Manitoba Trapping Guide*, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. Staff from Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Trappers Association contributed to the National Trapper Education Course Guidelines, which were developed through the Fur Institute of Canada and released in 2004.

- Considerable effort was again put into education services in 2004-05. Similar to the previous year, over 230 students completed the Mandatory Trapper Education Program. Workshops were held at Deloraine, Boissevain, Leaf Rapids, Ethelbert, Lac du Bonnet, Barrows, Oxford House, Moose Lake, Cross Lake, Hollow Water, Nelson House, Norway House, Thompson, and Tramping Lake. Berens River School initiated a half-credit course in trapper education in February 2004, with assistance from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Trappers Association, Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the University of Manitoba, and numerous other organizations. A total of 13 students graduated in June 2004 from this first year. Workshop instructors for all trapper education events were from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake and Wallace Lake field stations were used by staff, by students from Keewatin Community College Resource Management program, and by the Junior Forest Ranger Program in eastern Manitoba. The Manitoba Model Forest provided funds for renovations to the Wallace Lake Field Station.

Table WI.5

12.4(g)2 Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	634.9	11.29	637.0	(2.1)	
Other Expenditures	263.8		286.6	(22.8)	
Grant Assistance	89.9		89.9	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)2	**988.6**	**11.29**	**1,013.5**	**(24.9)**	

Table WI.6

Fur Statistics, Year ending August 31, 2004

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt	Royalty $
Badger	240	42.88	10,291	0.3	0.50	120
Bear	884	49.84	44,059	1.4	1.00	884
Beaver	18,964	22.63	429,155	14.1	0.50	9,482
Bobcat	25	144.81	3,620	0.1	1.00	25
Coyote	8,378	49.19	412,114	13.6	1.00	8,378
Ermine	3,136	2.71	8,499	0.3	0.05	157
Fisher	1,674	43.30	72,484	2.4	1.00	1,674
Fox, Blue	1		0	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	150	53.40	8,010	0.3	0.50	75
Fox, Red	2,403	27.81	66,827	2.2	0.50	1,202
Fox, Silver	54	30.58	1,651	0.1	0.50	27
Fox, White	186	24.49	4,555	0.1	0.50	93
Lynx	1,060	191.44	202,926	6.7	1.00	1,060
Marten	20,059	51.61	1,035,245	34.1	1.00	20,059
Mink	5,416	19.41	105,125	3.5	0.50	2,708
Muskrat	8,483	2.01	17,051	0.6	0.05	424
Otter	3,071	168.21	516,573	17.0	0.75	2,303
Raccoon	3,674	17.34	63,707	2.1	0.50	1,837
Squirrel	4,240	1.07	4,537	0.1	0.05	212
Wolf, Timber	281	80.43	22,601	0.7	1.00	281
Wolverine	43	232.07	9,979	0.3	2.50	108
Total			$3,039,009			$51,109

Notes: 1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995-96 ***Annual Report***, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2004-05 ***Annual Report*** will contain information on the 2003-2004 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2004.

Table WI.7

Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1993-94 to 2003-04

Year	Open Area Trappers (#)	Registered Trapline Trappers (#)	Estimated Production Value ($)
1993-94	5,546	1,818	2,694,978
1994-95	5,611	1,993	2,539,052
1995-96	6,336	1,865	2,639,452
1996-97	4,827	1,975	3,715,834
1997-98	5,315	2,049	3,306,968
1998-99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999-00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000-01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001-02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002-03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159
2003-04	5,817	1,708	3,039,009

Notes: 1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995-96 ***Annual Report***, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2004-05 ***Annual Report*** will contain information on the 2003-2004 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2004.

Table WI.8
Hunting Licences Sold

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident of Manitoba	19.63	9,788	182,862.44
Non-resident (Canadian)	74.77	660	48,773.20
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	140.19	5,657	787,221.31
Wild Turkey			
Resident of Manitoba	20.56	891	17,543.96
Resident of Manitoba - Youth	4.67	62	246.54
Moose			
Resident of Manitoba	46.73	4,488	206,937.24
Resident of Manitoba – Conservation	37.39	116	8,483.32
Non-resident (Canadian)	271.03	13	3,517.39
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	327.10	131	42,393.00
Elk			
Resident of Manitoba	46.73	3,456	161,498.88
Caribou			
Resident of Manitoba	42.06	515	21,660.90
Resident of Manitoba – Second	93.46	235	21,963.10
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian)	327.10	153	49,567.20
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) – Second	327.10	115	37,501.50
Black Bear			
Resident of Manitoba	28.04	1,301	35,324.04
Non-resident (Canadian)	93.46	40	3,728.40
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	196.26	2,016	392,479.60
Deer			
Resident of Manitoba	32.71	40,676	1,291,101.96
Resident of Manitoba – Second	18.69	7,251	128,650.19
Resident of Manitoba – Third	18.69	132	2,343.08
Non-resident (Canadian)	140.19	725	101,072.56
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	196.26	1,606	312,806.52
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident of Manitoba	9.35	3,489	29,251.15
Total Licence Sales			
Resident of Manitoba		72,400	2,107,866.80
Non-resident (Canadian)		1,438	157,091.55
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)		9,678	1,621,969.13
Total		83,516	3,886,927.48
Replacement	Variable	136	1,224.85
Grand Totals		83,652	3,888,152.33

Notes:
1. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission)
2. Non-Resident Caribou Licences are valid for both Canadian and Non-Canadian Hunters and re included with the Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) totals.
3. Resident Conservation Moose Licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (216 licences = 108 packages).
4. A Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.
5. A Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.

Table WI.9
Hunting *Licence* Sales and Revenue 1994-95 to 2004-05

	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
Year	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $
1994-95	23,331	793,088.50	62,485	2,009,832.00	85,816	2,802,920.50
1995-96	24,511	848,222.00	67,883	2,210,534.00	92,394	3,058,756.00
1996-97	24,789	890,609.50	71,955	2,208,504.00	96,744	3,099,113.50
1997-98	23,446	1,056,020.70	63,668	2,402,913.96	87,114	3,458,934.66
1998-99	23,816	1,112,930.77	59,743	2,423,557.18	83,559	3,536,487.95
1999-00	22,096	1,070,616.01	67,058	2,610,746.10	89,154	3,681,362.11
2000-01	19,742	950,233.84	62,830	2,640,246.04	82,572	3,590,479.88
2001-02	18,287	824,801.91	64,407	2,659,738.55	82,694	3,484,540.46
2002-03	17,850	896,327.62	64,154	2,677,817.56	82,004	3,574,145.18
2003-04	18,747	942,929.36	64,555	2,656,659.40	83,302	3,599,588.76
2004-05	17,058	1,036,647.45	66,594	2,851,504.88	83,652	3,888,152.33

Notes: 1. $5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement introduced in 1997-98.
2. Second Licences for Resident and Non-Resident Caribou Hunters introduced in 1999-00.
3. Youth Hunting Licence Package for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 1999-00.
4. Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003-04.
5. Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003-04

Table WI.10
Wildlife Licence Revenue

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	$1,018,856.95
Wild Turkey Licences	$17,790.50
Black Bear Licences	$431,532.04
Replacement Licences	$1,224.85
Caribou Licences	$130,692.70
Deer Licences	$1,835,974.31
Elk Licences	$161,498.88
Moose Licences	$261,330.95
Youth Hunting Licence Package	$29,251.15
Total – Hunting	$3,888,152.33
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	$39,676.00
Fur Dealer Licences *	$1,900.00
Tanner Licences *	$60.00
Taxidermist Licences *	$2,040.00
Shooting Preserve Licences	$550.00
Dog Trainer Licences	$470.00
Game Bird Farm Licences	$480.00
Amphibians and Reptiles Licences	$232.00
Total – Commercial	$45,408.00
Total Revenue	$3,933,560.33

* Reflects revenue for the 2003-04 Fur Year ending August 31, 2004.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Wildlife Lands Unit

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of all lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), public shooting grounds, refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit also directs and co-ordinates Manitoba's Heritage Marsh Program, which includes management for protection and enhancement, studies and inventories to support management recommendations, and the development of viewing, interpretive and access facilities. The Section also co-operates with Tourism Development in the provision of wildlife viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Wildlife Management Area Program

- Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at several Interlake WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges. In co-operation with Manitoba Tourism Development, the Watchable Wildlife Program funded a major upgrade of public use and interpretive facilities at the Narcisse Snake Dens. Wheel chair access was improved by upgrading the trail surfaces and interpretive sign kiosks were placed at each den. Interpretive signs were also produced for the Whitewater Lake WMA.

Wildlife Management Area Maintenance

- The Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including prairie enhancement in the Narcisse WMA and weed control in several WMAs in southwestern Manitoba.

Land Management and Use

- The Section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals to assess whether there would be unacceptable impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

Heritage Marsh Program

- The Heritage Marsh Program targets marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

- Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant negative changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a water regime that reflects natural wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Fish and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada. A 31

hectare (80 acre) parcel of land was acquired for inclusion in the Delta Heritage Marsh and proposed WMA.

- The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 25,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2004.

Habitat Stewardship Unit

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial and federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program, and administration of The Conservation Agreements Act. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs and also participates in the Urban Habitat Stewardship Project.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, in conjunction with a co-ordinator under contract to MHHC, are involved in implementing the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) in Manitoba. Activities include development of projects, review and recommendation of project funding (as a member of the Working Group), implementation, and reporting.

- Federal funds matched 1:1 by provincial and other partners funds are available for projects that address the habitat stewardship needs of COSEWIC-listed species at risk (*endangered*, *threatened*, and *special concern*). Approved projects target private lands, provincial Crown lands, municipal lands, and Aboriginal lands through stewardship programs delivered by various organizations to landowners, lease holders, resource users, and communities.

- In 2004-05, $871,250 in federal funding was received for HSP projects in Manitoba with $701,750 of that going to Manitoba Conservation/Habitat Heritage Corporation projects.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

- The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2004-05. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include MHHC, the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the department supported delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to the preserve partners.

- The Section continued to cover the monitoring expenses of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve biological staff plus a Green Team staff person who assist with field activities. Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots, and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on preserve lands. In 2004, 18,838 flower spikes of western prairie fringed orchid and 1,412 great plains' ladies-tresses were counted on preserve properties and in roadside ditches in the area. The western prairie fringed orchid numbers were the third

highest since the counts began in 1992. Small white lady's-slippers' numbers were monitored at four permanent plots. Five banding sessions [Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program] were conducted during the 2004 season between June 21 and August 13. Ninety-two birds representing twenty-one species were banded. The seven species that made up the majority of the captures were: clay-colored sparrows, yellow warblers, swamp sparrows, common yellowthroats, Traill's flycatcher, song sparrows and LeConte's sparrows. As in the past, all 16 song bird survey points were visited twice between June 3 and 22, the peak song period for birds. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys continued in 2004 and seven dancing grounds were active. Overall, the local grouse population appears stable.

- Although controlled burns are used as a management tool on a rotational cycle to enhance the grassland components, they were not possible in 2004 because of the wet conditions. Plant identification signs were replaced along the interpretive trail as required. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at the grazing project to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem especially potential impacts on small white lady's-slippers. A new three-paddock grazing site was set up on the preserve and permanent plots were established to monitor the vegetative responses to grazing. Over 50 leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) patches have been found on preserve lands and the GPS location of each has been recorded. Early in the flowering time (June 14-18) each plot was visited and any plants found were pulled out. A herbicide trial using a 35% RoundUp®™ solution applied with a wick applicator was conducted at three sites. Aspen girdling was done on several clones.

- Several new properties (720 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried (inventory sampling and vegetation mapping) in 2004. Special note was made of species listed as endangered, such as the western prairie fringed orchid.

- Eleven onsite tours were provided to various groups during the 2004 season. Preserve biologists also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October to 11 classes from six schools in southeastern Manitoba and five groups (10 classes) booked field trips to the preserve.

Critical Wildlife Habitat Program

- This cost-shared program involves the department, MHHC and other agencies on a project-specific basis. It supports projects to identify, preserve, and manage critical habitats, especially native grasslands and habitats of species at risk. The program supports stewardship initiatives, mixed-grass prairie inventories, mixed-grass prairie grazing projects, land management including native prairie management, and extension. The department and MHHC fund many of these programs, while others are supported by other agencies. Critical Wildlife Habitat Program projects serve as a match for funds provided by the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

- Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba. The Mixed-Grass Prairie Inventory determines the status of prairie habitats in the mixed-grass region of Manitoba, including key locations of potential species at risk habitat. In 2004, a total of 8,078 ha (19,960 ac) of mixed-grass prairie habitat were inventoried, with 4,870 ha (12,033 ac) or about 60% graded as C or better. The total mixed-grass prairie habitat inventoried through the project now stands at 68,310 ha (168,791ac), with 39,861 ha (98,050 ac), or about 58%, graded as C or better. The information is used to target habitat conservation efforts such as Conservation Agreements, which secure these habitats in perpetuity. An informational brochure on mixed-grass prairie was produced and 10,000 copies were printed for distribution.

- The Mixed-Grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2004-05 eight five-year agreements were signed to protect 5,702 acres of native grasslands. Various extension activities including a tour and a three-day workshop were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system. The information provided at these events also demonstrates how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands to benefit wildlife and also increase livestock weight gains.

- Additional funding for both projects was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Urban Habitat Stewardship Project

- The Department continued to contribute to the City of Winnipeg's Ecologically Significant Lands (ESL) Working Group in 2004-05. The group is working on an ESL plan for the management of natural areas owned and managed by the City of Winnipeg, which contain wildlife and plant communities native to Manitoba.

- The Naturescape sub-committee of the Capital Region Habitat Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalists Society, the City of Winnipeg, Environment Canada and Fort Whyte Centre, continued to co-ordinate the production of *Manitoba Naturescape*. The editorial and design portions of the project are nearing completion and the book is targeted for printing in the spring of 2006. This educational book, with information on native species and project ideas, is designed to help organizations and individuals transform small urban and rural areas, including backyards, into habitat.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems and restoring previously degraded environments to healthy conditions.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Ecosystem Monitoring

- The Unit identifies, evaluates and manages risks to the environment and human health, using innovative, scientifically credible problem-solving methods within the following general areas:
  - monitoring the quality of the terrestrial environment (soils, vegetation, and wildlife)
  - providing scientific and technical support toward maintaining the quality of ecosystems and restoring degraded environments to healthy condition
  - collecting data to assist in understanding the complex interactions of ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife, and habitat) so that land-use decision making will be based on sound ecological principles and all potential environmental effects of developments are considered
- The Unit maintains a network of monitoring sites and conducts issue-based environmental studies to define terrestrial ecosystem quality. The Unit liaises with peers in the scientific community and produces and distributes environmental information.

- Documenting impacts of contaminants and land-use practices on terrestrial ecosystems.
- Collecting soil and vegetation samples and growth parameter data at permanent sites near Thompson to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the Inco Smelter on the regeneration of planted black spruce and jack pine trees.
- Monitoring an acid mine drainage site near Flin Flon to study re-vegetation under different mitigation treatments.
- Preparing a detailed technical report on the metal content of soil and vegetables grown in gardens in Flin Flon, Manitoba.
- Collecting and analyzing data to compare and contrast the growth of native and non-native plant species on reconstructed dykes along the Assiniboine River.
- Sampling soil at permanent monitoring sites near Thompson to assess the long-term effects of emissions from the Inco smelter on natural boreal forest plant communities.
- Sampling soil and vegetation in the vicinity of the Ruttan Mine (east of Leaf Rapids) to assess the degree and extent of wind deposited mine tailings dust on the adjacent forest community.
- Collecting soil samples and vegetation data near the wastewater treatment lagoon at Miniota to determine if leakage from the lagoon has occurred and to assess potential impacts to the soil and vegetation within a pasture west of the lagoon.
- Concluding a survey of the vascular plant flora at the Fort Whyte Centre (Winnipeg).and collating data for a report on the findings.
- Establishing and maintaining data files.
- Monitoring to determine the degree and extent of contamination from accidental chemical release.
- Preparing reports and evaluating peer reports.
- Promoting development of guidelines and best practices for preventing environmental contamination from industry and other sources.
- Reviewing development proposals, identifying potential impacts, and making recommendations for licensing.
- Assessing applications for funding from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund and the EcoAction Fund.
- Providing scientific and technical support to government.
- Providing information and advice to the public, local and environmental groups, Aboriginal communities, consultants, industry, and other government jurisdictions.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- In 2004-05, 53 ***Environment Act*** proposals or pre-clearances were reviewed, which is 46.5% less than in 2003-04. They included highway upgrades, mine closure plans, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, utility corridors, and town water supplies. Three draft licences concerning irrigation projects and water pollution controls were reviewed, as were the annual operating plans for Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, Tembec/Pine Falls Paper, and Mountain Quota Holders Association.

Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba

- The Branch continues to participate in the Forest Practices Committee which is developing forest practices to mitigate or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on ecosystems and the habitat that supports wildlife.

- Work continues on the Branch's reference document, *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba*. The document describes measures to mitigate disturbances on wildlife and wildlife habitat from developments and land uses including forestry, highway and hydro construction, and mining exploration and development.

Project WILD

- Project WILD is an environmental education program, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, emphasizing wildlife and implemented under agreements with each province's wildlife agency. Project WILD activities were developed for use in the Grade Four science curriculum. Teachers are required to attend an in-service training workshop, usually conducted jointly by a wildlife specialist and a trained workshop facilitator. Last year, three Project WILD workshops were delivered; one was held at the University of Manitoba for the education students, one was held at Brandon University for the education students, and one was delivered at the annual SAG Conference for teachers.

Table WI.11
12.4(g)3 Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05 $(000)	Estimate 2004/05 FTE	Estimate 2004/05 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	631.8	10.00	744.3	(112.5)	1.
Other Expenditures	68.4		72.7	(4.3)	
Grant Assistance	645.0		645.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)3	**1,345.2**	**10.00**	**1,462.0**	**(116.8)**	

1. Under expenditure in salaries and benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacancies.

Biodiversity Conservation

The Section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity.

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

- Staff from the Biodiversity Conservation Section prepare wildlife species status reports for the Endangered Species Advisory Committee, established under ***The Endangered Species Act,*** to advise the Minister on species at risk. Declaring a species as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened affords it protection, thereby enhancing its likelihood of survival in Manitoba. Population numbers and trends, distribution, habitat needs, and threats are criteria used to assess the conservation status of species.

- No new species were declared as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened under the Act in 2004-05.

- The distribution of fact sheets on Manitoba's Species at Risk continued and plans are under way to expand the fact sheet series in the coming year.

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

- Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

  The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC): Department staff participated in the national assessment process of determining which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports. Staff of Manitoba Water Stewardship responsible for aquatic species at risk programs also provided input.

  The National Recovery Working Group: Manitoba is an active member of this working group that facilitates the recovery of nationally endangered wildlife. In 2004-05, Manitoba enhanced its ability to report on recovery activities to Environment Canada's Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife (RENEW) program. Information on cash and in-kind contributions toward the recovery of species at risk was entered into the Recovery Information Management System (RIMS) database, and will allow RENEW to report Manitoba's recovery efforts in its annual report.

  Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada: In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. Work is underway towards producing the 2005 report (to be released in 2006). The 2005 report will include assessments of all vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, freshwater and marine fishes, and mammals, as well as selected groups of invertebrates including dragonflies, tiger beetles, butterflies, freshwater mussels, and crayfish. A significant amount of staff time was expended in 2004-05 to develop Manitoba's General Status ranks and participate in national roll-ups for groups such as crayfish, mussels and vascular plants. The results will help set conservation priorities for many species at risk and biodiversity programs and future assessments for listing under ***The Endangered Species Act***.

- It is appropriate to acknowledge the myriad of amateur naturalists and professional biologists in Manitoba who donated their time and expertise to help with this and other provincial conservation status assessments. Over the years, hundreds of Manitoba citizens have been studying, collecting and identifying species that contribute to this process.

  Biodiversity Convention Office: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs outlined in the report to Wildlife Ministers, *Working Together—Priorities for Collaborative Action to Implement the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy 2001-2006*. Implementation priorities include:
  - biodiversity science agenda, including bio-infomatics
  - reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, including monitoring
  - alien invasive species
  - eco-citizenship, including stewardship

Conservation Data Centre

- The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a database of information on Manitoba's plant and animal species, including Manitoba's endangered and threatened species. The CDC maintains current lists of plant and animal species and communities found in Manitoba and assigns each of them a conservation status rank based on how rare they are in Manitoba. Detailed information on where the provincially rare species and communities have been found is collected. These locations are mapped in a software application called Biotics that is used by all other CDCs in NatureServe's network.

- The CDC's Biotics database is the authoritative source of information on Manitoba flora and fauna, particularly species at risk. The information managed by the CDC has many uses, including conservation and development planning, and is made available to government, the private sector, and the public. The section responds to hundreds of requests for information in the CDC database annually. Requests came from federal and provincial governments, consultants, Nature Conservancy Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Natural Heritage programs in the U.S.A., secondary schools, universities and others (organizations, industry and individuals). Information was used for environmental impact assessments, both by project proponents and by government reviewers.

- The CDC is a member of NatureServe (www.natureserve.org) a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, a group of CDCs found in all Canadian provinces and in one territory. NatureServe Canada is currently working with Environment Canada, Parks Canada Agency, Natural Resources Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, and other national government and non-government agencies on behalf of all Canadian CDCs to address common areas of interest. This has resulted in a number of partnerships between Manitoba CDC and these agencies to deliver products and services of interest to all. The CDC Co-ordinator attended the NatureServe Canada 2004 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in New Brunswick to represent Manitoba's interests in the organization, and Manitoba has agreed to host the 2005 AGM.

Information Management

- Following a successful upgrade to version 4 of Biotics in 2003-04, the focus in 2004-05 was to improve the quality of information in the database and meet new data standards that have been implemented by NatureServe in conjunction with the upgraded software. Adoption and implementation of these standards allows Manitoba to contribute to seamless data sets across provincial and state boundaries for species at risk – a key contribution to the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada – among other uses. Annual data exchanges with NatureServe allow for an integration of Manitoba's information into the network-wide data, and in return Manitoba receives information gathered by all other CDCs in the network.

- Locations of rare plants, animals, plant communities and animal assemblages are mapped in the Biotics database and are known as element occurrences. Originally these were mapped as single point observations, but new technology and methodology allows for detailed mapping in the form of polygons which more accurately represent observations. Element occurrences can now be based on multiple observations, known as source features, which are of biological significance to a given species. This accurate mapping results in better management of rare and endangered species and their habitat. In 2004-05, efforts to upgrade information holdings on a number of species at risk led to the addition, deletion, or modification of several thousand source feature and element occurrence records – a significant improvement in the quality and quantity of information available for decision support.

Table WI.12

Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database

Information Type	Plant	Animal	Plant Community	Animal Assemblage[1]	Total
Number of Elements[2]	2,705	1,284	174	8	4,171
Number of Rare to Uncommon Elements	599	124	61	0	784
Number of Element Occurrences[3]	1,667	1,587	70	424	3,748
Number of Source Features[4]	2,382	2,859	70	424	5,735

1. Animal assemblages are concentration points for one or more species in a single site, such as waterbird colonies, snake dens and bat caves. Although the species found there may not be rare in Manitoba, the concentration of so many animals in a relatively small number of sites merits special attention to protect these locations from harm.
2. Elements are the units of biodiversity tracked by the CDC. They include species, subspecies or varieties; natural plant communities; and animal communities.
3. Element occurrences are known locations of rare plants, animals, or communities that have been entered into the Biotics database.
4. Source features are individual observations of rare plants, animals or communities, such as a nesting site. Element occurrences are created from source features – if multiple source features occur in proximity to each other, they can be grouped into a single, more biologically meaningful element occurrence.

Botany/Ecology

Rare Plant Surveys

- Fieldwork was conducted at more than 95 sites to search for locations of more than 30 provincially rare species, including eight species listed under Manitoba's *Endangered Species Act* or Canada's *Species at Risk Act*. These surveys resulted in roughly 350 new or updated records being documented in the CDC database.

- Highlights in 2004-05 included the rediscovery of smooth goosefoot, last seen in 1959 before being located during a survey with The Manitoba Museum in August 2004; the discovery of additional populations of western silvery aster around Birds Hill Provincial Park, and the survey of all known populations of western spiderwort to delimit the exact locations of plants using GPS-equipped handheld computers. Volunteers in the Whiteshell region were enlisted to provide information on rare tree and water lily species that they might encounter. Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation was visited and provided with information on rare plant species found on the reserve. Close working relationships with a variety of provincial government and non-government organizations, such as Native Orchid Conservation Inc., Conservation Districts, Manitoba Naturalists Society and Universities continued to provide valuable information.

Co-operative Initiatives

- Work continued on the aspen parkland ecoregional planning exercise with Nature Conservancy Canada, and neighbouring provinces and states. This exercise will lead to the completion of a conservation blueprint for future work by Nature Conservancy Canada, Manitoba Conservation, and other partners.

- The Conservation Data Centre continued to work with Nature Conservancy Canada in the development of a site conservation plan for the tall-grass aspen parkland site in southeastern Manitoba. This plan, once completed, will identify priority conservation sites and activities in this internationally recognized and globally endangered ecosystem.

- Work continued on the development of a Canadian National Vegetation Classification, with Canadian Forest Service, Parks Canada, NatureServe, and counterparts in other provinces and territories.

- Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada Agency as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk. The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's database of information on species at risk underwent significant upgrades in order to continue to serve as the authoritative source of information on species at risk for Manitoba.

Recovery of Plant Species at Risk

- Manitoba Conservation and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources collaborated in the production of a draft National Recovery Strategy for western silvery aster, a nationally and provincially threatened species. In 2005-06, this strategy will be peer reviewed, submitted to Canadian Wildlife Service to test for compliance with the federal Species at Risk Act, and finalized.

- Collaboration with the National Recovery Team for Plant Species at Risk in Prairie Canada continued. Representatives from the provincial and federal agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have agreed to work co-operatively to meet national recovery requirements for SARA-listed plant species including western spiderwort and hairy prairie clover.

Zoology

Invertebrate Monitoring and Assessment

- Fieldwork was conducted in the Interlake to identify potential sites for the Dakota skipper, a species of butterfly listed as threatened in Manitoba. Known sites of occurrence were visited to identify associated vegetation and this information was used to find 22 additional sites that may be capable of supporting the butterfly. Using vegetation associations to find potential new sites of occurrence is a useful tool to focus survey efforts during the brief three week period in which the adult butterflies are active.

- Section staff continued to inventory and monitor occurrences of rare freshwater mussels and the calico crayfish and cooperated with researchers from Brandon University to complete a detailed status assessment of the mapleleaf shell (a mussel) for consideration by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada (COSEWIC).

- Specimens of dragonflies submitted by volunteers from around the province have been used to further define the range of a number of species found in Manitoba.

- Co-operation continued with researchers and students at Brandon University, The University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg, and a number of collaborative projects are being planned for the future.

Narcisse WMA Snake Dens

- Many Manitobans and non-residents visit the red-sided garter snake hibernacula at Narcisse each spring. Staff interpreters are on hand during times of peak emergence to explain the snake's life history and significance of the dens. The abundance of snakes provides an opportunity for snake researchers to conduct studies on the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species, and Narcisse continues to attract biologists from several major universities in the United States and from as far away as Australia.

- The installation of culverts under the highway and drift fences to guide snakes towards the culverts has successfully reduced the number of snakes killed by automobiles on PTH #17 by about 75%. Further efforts to reduce road kill and increase the sustainability of the Narcisse snake population were undertaken, including improvements to the drift fence system.

- The Narcisse Snake Management Advisory Group was established to assist Manitoba Conservation staff in the management, conservation and sustainable development of the Narcisse Snake Dens. Representatives from the local community, local government, wildlife advocacy groups, universities, and government sit on the advisory group which replaced the previous Snake Mortality Advisory Group formed in 1999 to address the highway mortality issue.

- The Narcisse WMA interpretive program, in co-operation with the Manitoba/Quebec Exchange Program, provided a placement for a university student from Quebec to offer tours of the snake hibernacula in French. This was the second year of involvement with the program.

- Recently discovered populations of red-sided garter snakes at Jenpeg have attracted the interest of researchers and students at the University of Manitoba who are planning to study their population dynamics and habitat use. The populations at Jenpeg are at the northern-most limit of the species' range in Manitoba.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project

- After a hiatus of one year in Winnipeg and two years in Brandon, active peregrine falcon nests were located in both locations during 2004. The resident male on the Radisson Hotel in downtown Winnipeg was a 1996 wild-hatched male from the Radisson who has held the territory since 2000. His mate was a two-year-old female that was hatched in 2002 from a nest on a smokestack in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Three of four eggs from this nest hatched and the three young (one male and two females) were subsequently banded by volunteers with the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Committee. The male fledged at 35 days of age, the two females seven days later.

- In Brandon, two pairs of peregrines were on territory in 2004 – one at the McKenzie Seeds Building, the second a few kilometres north on a water-tower at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. The Mental Health Centre site was occupied by peregrines for the first time in 2003 and, like last year, the site was defended by the pair but no nesting occurred though nesting behaviour was observed. The McKenzie Seeds Building was first occupied in 1993, but there were no nests in 2002 and 2003.

- In 2004, a female that hatched in 2003 on the Community First Bank in Fargo, North Dakota, was paired with a 1995 wild-hatch male from the McKenzie Seeds Building that had held this territory in 2002, but was not positively identified on site in 2003. Two eggs were laid, but only one hatched and was banded. The chick, a female, injured herself immediately upon fledging and was treated by the Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization (MWRO). An attempt to re-release her in Brandon failed and she was returned to MWRO and later to Parkland Mews. If she is deemed to be non-releasable by volunteers with the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Committee, she will be included in Parkland Mews peregrine breeding program. Parkland Mews, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation, completed construction of a captive breeding facility for this endangered raptor. The placement of two pairs and one single peregrine in this building has implemented a key part of Manitoba's recovery plan for this species.

Piping Plovers

- Funding from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund and the federal Habitat Stewardship Program supported piping plover monitoring and stewardship activities in 2004. A total of 20 traditional sites were surveyed for the presence of piping plovers during the 2004 breeding

season. An additional 12 potential sites were investigated for habitat suitability and presence of adults. High water levels on Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba this season limited suitability of many sites and affected productivity by reducing habitat and increasing flooding risk. For the seventh consecutive year, high water levels precluded any nesting on West Shoal Lake, a primary nesting area in the past. A total of 25 adult plovers were confirmed at eight sites with seven pair and eight nests identified. Nesting birds were located at Clandeboye Bay, Grand Beach, Grand Marais Spit, and Riverton Sandy Bar, and was suspected at Hecla Sand Spit. Adults were also spotted during the breeding season at Twin Lakes, Willow Point and Beaconia Beach. Of the eight located nests, two were assumed to have been predated prior to protective exclosures being erected. Six nests were protected by exclosure cages but two of them were washed away by high water. Three nests were inundated with water but not fully washed away and three hatched successfully. Of the three successful nests, eight of nine eggs hatched with three chicks surviving to fledge.

- Recovery activities undertaken in 2004 included fencing and signage at four major nesting sites to reduce the chances of nests being disturbed by humans or ATVs, exclosure cages installed on most nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program at Grand Beach to protect nests and increase public awareness and participation at this key nesting site. Most sites where adult plovers were observed were checked a minimum of once a week. Predator exclosures were used on complete clutches at all regularly monitored nests to protect nests from predators. At the Riverton Sandy Bar Important Bird Area and Clandeboye Bay Special Conservation Area, fencing was put up to restrict access to the entire potential nesting area prior to confirmed nesting. At sites such as Grand Beach and Grand Marais Spit that could not be completely fenced off or access restricted to the entire potential nesting area, temporary fencing was used to protect specific territorial areas where pairs were observed in breeding behaviour or where scrapes were found. More permanent plastic fencing was then placed around nests once nest locations were confirmed. Signs were placed on fencing structures to warn and educate beach goers at Grand Beach, Grand Marais, Beaconia Beach, Patricia Beach, Riverton Sandy Bar, and Twin Lakes Beach.

- A provincial Piping Plover Recovery Action Group has been created to direct future stewardship and recovery activities. This group includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, the Canadian Wildlife Service and several interest groups and individuals that have been actively involved in piping plover recovery in Manitoba. A preliminary provincial recovery strategy was drafted in 2004 that included an analysis of historic sites and other suitable habitat.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Monitoring & Stewardship

- Monitoring of nesting populations of the endangered eastern (*migrans*) subspecies of the loggerhead shrike in southeastern Manitoba revealed a slight increase from six nesting pairs (13 total birds) during 2003 to eight pairs (16 birds) in 2004. Most nesting shrikes are found on suburban properties in the RM of West St Paul on the northern outskirts of Winnipeg. One pair was found on a golf course on the west end of Winnipeg and two additional nesting pairs were found in the RM of Rosser in the northwest corner of Winnipeg. All eight pairs nested successfully and a total of 42 young were banded and were raised to at least the fledging stage.

- Stewardship and monitoring of eastern loggerheads continue to be co-ordinated by the Eastern Manitoba Recovery Action Group (EMRAG), which includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, the Portage Natural History Group, and other local interest groups and individuals. Stewardship initiatives include increasing public awareness and support for landowners that wish to preserve habitat for this endangered species.

Grassland Bird Species Monitoring and Management

- Wildlife native to the prairies has suffered greater losses since settlement than wildlife from any other habitat. The Grassland Species at Risk Program oversees monitoring and management of grassland species at risk. Target species include those designated as threatened or endangered under ***The Endangered Species Act***, including the burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, Sprague's pipit, and Baird's sparrow.

- Despite intensive management and re-introductions of burrowing owls in Manitoba since the mid-1980s, nesting populations have dwindled to where there are few remaining in the province. In 2004, there were two reports of burrowing owl sightings. Although it is believed that they were migrating through the area, there may be a few widely scattered pairs that nest in the province. The populations have also been declining sharply in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and the species is in danger of being extirpated across the Canadian prairies.

- Nesting ferruginous hawks returned to Manitoba in 1984, after an absence of nearly 60 years. Population recovery during the 1980s can be credited to more widespread protection, enhanced public attitudes towards hawks and raptors in general, and the provision of secure nesting platforms. The nesting population peaked in 1990 at 56 pairs but declined to 36 pairs by 2002 due to a crash in the Richardson's ground squirrel numbers (or prairie gopher). Recently, ground squirrel numbers have rebounded slightly in the southwest and during 2004, 44 nesting pairs of ferruginous hawks were observed. Nest success was excellent and a total of 87 young were produced. As in recent years, more than three-quarters of the nesting pairs used artificial nest platforms. The platforms are nesting baskets filled with sticks and look identical to natural nests. They have been more successful because they are placed in sturdier trees, are near extensive hunting pastures, and are situated as far as possible from potential disturbance.

- Nesting populations of the western loggerhead shrike in southern Manitoba have rebounded slightly in recent years after a severe decline during the mid to late 1990s. A total of 72 nesting pairs were noted in the southwest during 2004; greater than the 59 pairs in 2002, but still well below the high of 327 pairs in 1993. The recent decline has been attributed to reduced nesting success as a result of increased predation and wet and cool weather during June. Although weather was not a major factor in 2004, monitored nests had high levels of predation on eggs and young. A total of 138 young western loggerhead shrikes were banded in Manitoba during 2004. Return rates on young and adult shrikes that have been banded since 1987 have been unusually low, suggesting that elevated mortality on the nesting grounds, as well as on migration and in wintering areas, may be contributing to ongoing declines.

Owl Monitoring

- 2004 was the 21st year for the great gray owl monitoring project. Although high densities of great gray and northern hawk owls were noted in the boreal forests of southeastern Manitoba during the winter of 2003-04, few remained in the southern boreal forests during the 2004 nesting period. Collaborative efforts continued with the University of Guelph and The Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, to examine the potential impact of West Nile Virus on Manitoba's provincial bird emblem.

- Manitoba's nocturnal owl survey now has online capabilities. With the creation of a national owl survey database (maintained by Bird Studies Canada), data from across Canada is now integrated into one system. Manitoba has also switched to datasheets, which can be scanned by a computer to capture the data instead of being entered manually. This survey was supported in part by Manitoba Hydro and Bird Studies Canada. Information on the survey can be found at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/involved/bird_monitoring.html.

- A volunteer-based daytime survey to track populations of short-eared owls continued in 2004. For more information on the survey please visit http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/wildlife/news/whats_new.html. This survey was necessitated because existing monitoring programs such as the Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey and the Nocturnal Owl Survey do not adequately monitor this species in Manitoba and elsewhere. The short-eared owl was classified as a species of special concern in Canada (COSEWIC November 2002) and is recognized as a species of conservation concern throughout much of its North American range.

- Manitoba Conservation also continues to support graduate student Master's research on the eastern screech owl with the Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba. This research project is assessing the population density and habitat preferences of the species in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. The habits of the eastern screech owl are poorly understood in Manitoba, and monitoring this environmental "barometer" in urban areas provides information on how cities can be sustainable habitats for wildlife. In order to locate owls, the student has recruited birders and Manitoba Nocturnal Owl survey volunteers to survey potential breeding areas. Individuals can learn to recognise the calls of the nocturnal eastern screech owl by visiting www.owlpages.com/species/otus/asio/Default.htm and clicking on the calls below the picture.

Breeding Bird Survey

- Manitoba Conservation staff promote and co-ordinate involvement in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Extremely wet conditions during 2004 resulted in fewer than normal routes visited. There was considerable diversity in the bird species with a total of 195 species found along the 36 routes that were completed in the Province. The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds using a standard protocol and time of the year and in most cases by the same individuals each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing in numbers than those whose numbers are decreasing. The data also reveal that grassland-nesting birds have undergone significant declines since 1966.

Polar Bears

- Section staff participated in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Nine high school students from four countries travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to work with researchers and collect data on behavioural responses to ecotourism vehicles.

Woodland Caribou

- The Department is continuing to work on a Caribou Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou.

- A monitoring program for woodland caribou on the Kississing-Naosap range in the northwest region continues. Geographical Positioning System (GPS) radio collars placed on animals in 2003-04 were removed, the stored data downloaded, and the collars were re-deployed on eight animals to collect information on their travels for another year.

- An integrated woodland caribou/forest management plan which Manitoba Conservation developed in partnership with Tembec Industries (Pine Falls Operations), the Manitoba Model Forest, First Nation communities and other partners, continues to be implemented on Owl-Flintstone Lakes range (east of Lake Winnipeg). GPS collars were removed from animals on this

range as well as the Atikaki-Berens range and the data were downloaded. Ten GPS collars are currently deployed on caribou from the aforementioned ranges.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Project

- The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd continues to grow and is now estimated to number more than 200 animals.

- A bison habitat assessment project, funded through the federal Habitat Stewardship Program was completed for an area that encompasses Chitek Lake and Sisib Lake, approximately 50 kilometres north of Waterhen Lake. The assessment involved the identification of vegetation communities in the study area, a ground inventory of these communities , and documentation of the communities wood bison were using. Key bison habitats were mapped and satellite imagery was used to identify similar habitats which would be suitable for future range expansion. Over 150,000 ha of suitable habitat was identified to the north and west of Chitek Lake, along the Lake Winnipegosis shoreline. These areas are essential to the range expansion, growth and long term health of the herd as it approaches the National Recovery Plan target level of 400+ animals.

Table WI.13
12.4(g)4 Biodiversity Conservation

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	316.9	5.00	299.5	17.4	
Other Expenditures	60.7		72.0	(11.3)	
Total 12.4(g) 4	**377.6**	**5.00**	**371.5**	**6.1**	

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Poor fall harvest conditions in Agro-Manitoba impeded farmers' ability to complete the cereal harvest before the arrival of large numbers of waterfowl in early September. These conditions, together with excessive rainfall in the spring and summer, resulted in above-average waterfowl crop damage across Manitoba. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost $398,000, of which Canada contributed $200,200.

The program operated two feeding stations and eight Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated under a one-year Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement. This Agreement added another year to the previous agreement and maintains Canada's participation in and cost-shared funding of the program until March 31, 2004. The Problem Wildlife Unit began negotiations with Environment Canada in March 2005 to ratify a long-term, four-year agreement that would see the program extended through March 2009.

Table WI.14
12.4(g)5 Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	397.0		350.4	46.6	1.
Total 12.4(g)5	**397.0**		**350.4**	**46.6**	

1. Increased expenditures were due to increased crop damage claims resulting from waterfowl seasons being longer than anticipated. Higher expenditures were recovered from the federal government.

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Fund promotes principles of sustainable development through grants to non-profit community based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. The Fund encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resource issues and the environment. Funding is granted according to dollars in the Fund and the number of proponents.

Table SC.1
12.4(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Grant Assistance	148.7		250.0	(101.3)	1.
Total 12.4(h)	**148.7**		**250.0**	**(101.3)**	

1. Lower than anticipated activity.

Pollution Prevention

Working co-operatively with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to prevent pollution and conserve resources, and supports these initiatives through grant funding programs. The Branch develops policy, strategies, and regulations that will protect the environment and develops and distributes educational and informational materials to client groups.

The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and ***The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and three of its broad allocations, and co-chairs the working groups responsible for government-wide implementation of Procurement Guidelines and Code of Practice, among other duties under ***The Sustainable Development Act***.

The branch supports and participates in various departmental initiatives, including providing a staff member to serve as the campaign manager for the departmental All Charities Campaign and coordinating the department's efforts in the Commuter Challenge.

Staff also assisted in the development of a new departmental display and participated on the planning committee to create a temporary exhibit "Living on the Edge" at the Manitoba Museum. The display is intended to showcase Manitoba species management and endangered species, and to explore Manitoba based issues such as threatened species, extinction, habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, pollution and climate change. Grant funding was provided from the SDIF for this project.

To improve skills, ensure effective and efficient program delivery, and ensure the Branch is using current knowledge and research in its work, staff participated in various seminars and training sessions.

Branch activities are divided into four program areas:

1. Waste Reduction and Prevention,
2. Pollution Prevention,
3. Environmentally Sustainable Practices, and
4. Funding Programs

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Waste Reduction and Prevention

- The Branch develops and implements policy and strategies to reduce solid waste going to waste disposal grounds. Significant progress was made in developing and promoting sustainable alternatives to waste disposal.

- Recycling levels continue to increase in Manitoba with over 65% of available residential recyclables now being recovered. Manitobans are recycling over 57,723 Tonnes of packaging and paper. Recycling levels increased 17% over the previous year. Manitoba's product stewardship programs have provided over $14.4 million to improve diversion of waste from landfills.

- Statistics Canada reports that Manitoba's waste diversion rate reached 22% in 2002. The province's per capita waste disposal rate of 776 kilograms per person is slightly higher than the national average of 760 kgs per person. Manitoba's waste diversion performance continues to improve as a result of its product stewardship initiatives, improved waste disposal system operation, increased organic waste composting and new waste reduction activities implemented by local government and the Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sectors. Manitoba's

waste reduction goal remains at 500 kgs per person of solid waste disposed at landfills, a 50% reduction over 1989 levels.

- The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:

- promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management
- encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues
- reduce volume of waste generated and disposed;
- establish sustainable household hazardous waste and electronic waste management systems; and
- improve waste management facility operations and planning.

- The Branch continued to support the development of regional recycling networks throughout the province, and support and promote partnerships with non-government organisations to provide public information on waste reduction, composting, pollution prevention, green commuting and climate change. Manitoba's first organic waste composting conference was held in October 2004, attracting over 100 delegates.

- The Branch emphasized the development of composting facilities by municipalities, on farm manure management and supported the promotion of backyard composting. Support for public environmental information services, alternative leachate management systems and waste transfer station developments were priority initiatives of the Branch.

- Work continued on the implementation of the National Electronics Stewardship Program, national Compost Quality Guidelines, and recovery of scrap metal from northern Manitoba and Nunavut, with the first shipment of 36 tons of scrap metal shipped by barge, rail and truck from Rankin Inlet to Selkirk, Manitoba in October. Clean-up of scrap metal in Gillam and Churchill was also initiated, as well as green procurement practices and policies for government.

- The Branch continued its involvement in discussions centered on the establishment of Efficiency Manitoba, a new initiative intended to coordinate provincial resource and energy conservation efforts.

- More information on initiatives to reduce waste in Manitoba is available at: www.reducingwaste.com

Multi-Material Recycling

- At the time of reporting, figures for 2004/05 were not yet available. Recycling levels exceeded 65% in 2003/04. As a result, the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC), established as a statutory corporation in 1995 under the Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation, faced increased financial pressures to support municipal recycling systems.

- Following the submission of MPSC's three-year Business Plan for the period of 2004-2007 on February 9, 2004, the Branch initiated an analysis of the Business Plan as part of the Plan Approval process. The plan was approved November 2004. Key conditions of the approval included:

- Developments of guidelines for the municipal funding formula to ensure recycling support payment rates achieve 80% of recycling costs.
- Achievement of a 75% recovery target for beverage containers.
- Submission of a report on options for expanded product stewardship responsibilities for designated materials by September 2005.

- In 2003/04, the MPSC paid out over $7.5 million in Municipal Recycling Support Payments to recycling program operators and more than $600,000 to school programs. Municipal recycling programs continue to recover more resources annually. Manitoba's recycling system recovered over 57,723 metric tonnes of an estimated 87,650 metric tonnes (65%) of eligible material. On average, Manitobans recycled 50 kgs/person from their homes in 2003/04, an increase of 18% over the previous year.

- The Branch participated in the MPSC's regional recycling meetings. A representative of the Pollution Prevention Branch has been a member of the MPSC Board of Directors since March 2004. Further information on the MPSC is available at: www.mpsc.com

Table P2.1
Material Recovery Rates 2003

Eligible Material	Total Tonnes Recovered	Measured Generation (Tonnes)	Recovery Rate
Newspapers, magazines, flyers, telephone directories	32,334	35,651	91%
Glass containers	5,585	13,862	40%
Boxboard	3,919	9,683	40%
Corrugated Cardboard	8,636	10,722	81%
Steel Cans	2,196	6,226	35%
PET #1 plastic containers	1,652	2,744	60%
HDPE #2 plastic containers	1,181	3,881	30%
Aluminum cans	688	1,894	36%
Polycoat and Aseptic containers	716	2,117	34%
#4, 5 & 7 Plastics	815	1,645	50%
Total	**49,367**	**87,651**	**56%**

Regional Waste Management

- Through the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund, the Branch continued to support local government development of regional waste management systems. In 2004/05, one waste transfer project was supported with $15,000 in funding.

- Thirty projects were supported under the WRAPP Fund with $482,690 in project funding. This includes $160,000 for six composting projects.

- Work continued on the development of the regional recycling networks, a regional recycling coordinator position in partnership with North Central Development and key projects in leachate management research, and enhanced recycling recovery systems.

Tire Recycling

- The Tire Stewardship Board's (TSB) Scrap Tire Recycling Program (established 1995) is funded by a $2.80 levy on new tires sold for licensed vehicles. Five processors recycled 1,390,886 PTEs (Passenger Tire Equivalents). A total of 837,068 car, light truck and medium truck tires were sold, with $2,324,639 in levies collected and recyclers paid $2,578,611 in credit incentives. An additional $95,769 was paid to municipalities as an incentive to store tires appropriately for pickup. Further information on the TSB is available at: www.skyweb.ca/~mbtirebd/web.htm

Table P2.2
Products from Manitoba Scrap Tires in 2004/05

Product	PTEs	Percent of Total
Shred	543,603	39%
Moulded Products	193,945	14%
Tire-Derived Fuel	556,894	40%
Blasting Mats	72,840	5%
Cut Products	23,604	2%
TOTAL PTEs Recycled	**1,390,886**	

- The TSB submitted a new three-year Business Plan to the Minister of Conservation on March 18, 2004. The Branch initiated an analysis of the Business Plan as part of the Plan Approval process. Additional information and public input was obtained through a two-part public consultation process to supplement the analysis.

- In December 2004, the plan Minister of Conservation rejected the plan as significant issues were identified through a public consultation and departmental evaluation that required the Board's attention. The Branch continued to work with the TSB to resolve these issues.

Used Oil Recycling

- The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (MARRC). MARRC has 129 members. As part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. There were 53 Eco-Centres established in partnership with municipal governments and 19 privately operated depots.

- The depot network in Winnipeg was expanded to include 6 Canadian Tire Stores and a Wal-Mart, bringing the program into compliance with the convenience expectations for Winnipeg.

- Purchases of lubricating products increased by ten percent from last year. Oil recovery grew 5% to 12.5 million litres of used oil out of 16.5 million litres available. Filter recovery grew slightly to 1,550,000 filters of 2.03 million available. Container recovery increase slightly to 181,000 kg while 840,000 kgs are available. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- The Branch continued responsibility for managing the contract with Miller Environmental to support household hazardous waste management. Under the contract, 30 collection events are held throughout Manitoba annually. The HHW collection program sponsored 12 rural and 18 Winnipeg events and collected 512 tonnes of household hazardous wastes. This total was 2% more than was collected in 2003/04. A total of 6,268 vehicles were serviced, a slight decrease from 2003-04. Total value of the contract was $687,700.

- Staff continued to meet with local stakeholders in the automotive repair/recycling sector to examine opportunities for improved management of spent mercury based switches. Staff continued efforts to improve the management of mercury based lighting and provided advice to companies wanting to become established in this area.

- The branch continued to work towards improved management of electronic wastes. Branch staff participated on several national/western committees looking at harmonizing approaches to the management of e-waste in Canada.

Table P2.3

Manitoba's Household Hazardous Waste Program

Material Collected April to March (Litres)

	Wpg 04	Wpg 05	Change	Rural 04	Rural 05	Change	2004	2005	Change
Acid solutions	2,142	2,629	*23%*	1,183	908	*-23%*	3,325	3,537	*6%*
Alkaline solutions	7,903	10,273	*30%*	2,590	3,837	*48%*	10,493	14,110	*34%*
Aqueous salts	205	0	*-100%*	308	0	*-100%*	513	0	*-100%*
Miscellaneous - Inorganic	125,115	126,327	*1%*	54,612	74,397	*36%*	179,727	200,723	*12%*
Non halogenated solvents	49,075	51,377	*5%*	12,536	15,708	*25%*	61,611	67,084	*9%*
Fuels	808	768	*-5%*	21	780	*3,614%*	829	1,548	*87%*
Resins and plastics	154,622	143,254	*-7%*	43,905	31,415	*-28%*	198,527	174,669	*-12%*
Halogenated organic waste	7,256	8,141	*12%*	2,839	5,170	*82%*	10,095	13,311	*32%*
Oily wastes	785	2,556	*226%*	1,363	0	*-100%*	2,148	2,556	*19%*
Miscellaneous - Organic	2,898	2,248	*-22%*	1,792	188	*-90%*	4,690	2,436	*-48%*
Aerosols/compressed gases	5,659	6,045	*7%*	2,549	2,396	*-6%*	8,208	8,441	*3%*
PCB ballasts	1,750	313	*-82%*	129	91	*-29%*	1,879	404	*-78%*
Subtotal	358,218	353,931	*-1%*	123,827	134,890	*9%*	482,045	488,819	*1%*
Batteries, Acid filled	9,263	12,192	*32%*	5,461	6,909	*27%*	14,724	19,101	*30%*
Propane Bottles	4,022	3,316	*-18%*	477	775	*62%*	4,499	4,091	*-9%*
Total quantity	**371,503**	**369,439**	***-1%***	**129,765**	**142,574**	***9%***	**501,268**	**512,011**	***2%***
Total Number of Vehicles	*4,306*	*4,259*	*-1%*	*2,023*	*2,009*	*-1%*	*6,329*	*6,268*	*-1%*

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is defined as the use of processes, practices, materials, products, substances or energy that avoids or minimizes the creation of pollutants and waste, and reduces the overall risk to the environment and human health.

- The Branch continued to work with, and provide information to a variety of government, academic, industry, and consumer organizations. The branch developed and distributed technical and public education materials in support of branch and departmental program areas and to promote awareness of environmental issues. A Pollution Prevention poster for children was developed and distributed to Manitoba schools.

- In partnership with the North American Sediment and Erosion Control Association (NASECA) and the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) staff organized a Technical Workshop on the impact erosion and sediment has on Lake Winnipeg's water quality.

- Branch staff participated on the organizing committee and coordinated the department's presentation for the Manitoba Construction Conference—Canada's second largest construction conference and tradeshow. Staff reviewed and approved 80 company applications for the

Manitoba Heavy Construction Association's (MHCA) certification under the Safety, Health and Environment Program (SHEP). The Certificate of Recognition (COR) program is a comprehensive approach to reducing the human, financial and environmental costs of accidents and involves education, training and implementation of standard safety, health and environment practices into a company program.

- The Branch continued to host monthly environmental managers' network meetings. These meetings provide a forum for environmental managers to share information and keep abreast of developments in the field. Staff initiated a program to provide environmental awareness training to First Nation communities in the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council (IRTC).

- Staff participated in a national effort to develop tools to reduce air emissions from construction activity. A final draft document has been produced and ongoing discussions are being held with the industry and governments to identify how and when it may be implemented across Canada.

- Branch staff represented Manitoba on the CCME Pollution Prevention Network and participated on the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME's awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention. Each year, award winners from small, medium and large businesses, organizations, developers of pollution prevention innovations, and organizations using greenhouse gas reduction initiatives are selected. Thirty-five detailed submissions were reviewed and evaluated.

- Staff participated in the planning of the final year of a two-year program, "Operation CleanFarm", to collect and safely dispose of obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides. The two year program resulted in the collection of 92,476 kilograms of old chemicals from farms. All of the products were transported to Swan Hills, Alberta for high temperature incineration. Grant funding was provided from the SDIF for this project.

- Staff also participated on the editorial board of the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention's "At the Source" newsletter highlighting pollution prevention initiatives across Canada.

Ozone Depleting Substances

- ***The Ozone Depleting Substances Act and Regulation*** was established to minimize and avoid the ultimate release of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) to the environment for the protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

- The Federal-Provincial Working Group on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives met twice to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for implementation of the National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The 2001 NAP approved by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) calls for revising Provincial regulations.

- A number of amendments are being proposed to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation*, M.R. 103/94. The amendments are consistent with the 1998 and 2001 National Action Plan for the Environmental Control of ODS and their Halocarbon Alternatives and are designed to achieve an orderly and affordable phase-out of CFC's and Halons. The approach focuses on specific phase-out schedules for industry sectors to encourage the orderly transition from CFC's and Halons to alternative substances and technologies and to assure the safe disposal of surplus stocks. Sectoral consultations were undertaken with Manitoba industry stakeholders. Broader public consultation may be undertaken once the proposed amendments have been finalized.

- Staff continued to work in partnership with the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods in Manitoba for disposal.

- The Branch reviewed and administered the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The appointment allows MOPIA to undertake certain administrative tasks under the Regulation.

- Staff also participated in an international "Ozone Layer Protection Study Tour" hosted by MOPIA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to foster ozone awareness and understanding of Manitoba's ODS management program. This was the second year that Manitoba was selected to host four delegates from developing countries: China, Senegal, Fiji and Jamaica.

Environmentally Sustainable Practices

The Branch promotes adoption of environmentally-sustainable practices and pursues co-operative approaches and partnerships with stakeholder organizations.

Water Efficiency

- The Pollution Prevention Branch continues to partner with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other provincial and federal government departments and agencies to enable municipalities to use water and energy more efficiently. The Province through the SDIF and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities have each committed up to $160,000 to the Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Project (MMEP). Technical expertise and assistance in project management was provided. Work is also underway to facilitate funding and incentives by federal, provincial and other potential partners for participating municipalities to implement the recommendations made in their energy and water audits.

- Project results from the St. Andrews dual flush and water use project, Maximum Performance Toilet study, and Drainline Carry study were distributed and publicized by branch staff to potential and current homeowners, homebuilders, building inspectors, toilet wholesalers and retailers, building managers, water and wastewater utility operators, and the public. These studies were developed and executed in cooperation with other municipal, provincial and federal jurisdictions and agencies. Study results are available at www.cwwa.ca

- The Water Conservation and Economic Instruments Task Group of the CCME developed and completed reports outlining water conservation and efficiency practices, and economic instruments that are or could potentially be used in Canada. This committee, represented by the branch, began work on a report to review possible indicators and benchmarking for water use.

- Branch personnel assisted Manitoba Hydro to integrate water efficiency measures into their PowerSmart programs.

- The Branch also provided technical water efficiency advice to Federal Parks employees, and reviewed proposals for a "Federal House in Order Project" (FHIO) at Lower Fort Garry. To assist federal entities in achieving emission reductions, the FHIO initiative provides federal departments access to supporting programs in the areas of buildings, vehicle fleets, outside emissions, such as employee commuting and business travel, and energy efficient procurement. The project at Lower Fort Garry is an initiative by Parks Canada to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions related to their facility, reduce energy and water use, and educate the public about the alternatives implemented.

- The Branch purchased a functioning water efficiency display to demonstrate to the public and others, water efficient showerheads and toilets. This display will be used at trade shows, and other public events to promote water efficient fixtures.

- Branch employees assisted in the establishment of the Manitoba Chapter for the Canadian Green Building Council. The chapter provides a forum for information dissemination regarding green building practices appropriate for Manitoba.

- In partnership with Water Stewardship Department and Environment Canada, the branch continued to explore the potential for electronic submission and automatic entry in an appropriate database of water use by Manitoba water utilities.

- In cooperation with the Pembina Valley School Division, Branch staff delivered presentations to the "Sustainable Communities: Linking Education to Action Youth Forum". The intent of the forum was to assist youth leaders to engage in environmentally progressive projects in their schools. The presentations outlined information on conducting water efficiency audits and provided details on how to get recommendations implemented. A representative of the Pembina Valley School Division provided examples of audits, implementation and the volumes of water saved from a project conducted in the Division. That project was supported through a grant from the SDIF.

Sustainable Development Procurement and Act Implementation

- The Branch continued the implementation of Manitoba Conservation's Organizational Action Plan to address the Procurement Goals established under *The Sustainable Development Act*. The goals encompass many sustainability concerns and represent an initial step toward the challenge of focusing efforts on the most beneficial course for reducing the Government of Manitoba's ecological footprint while enhancing community development. Several targets continue to be met or have been exceeded, including increasing the amount of ethanol fuel purchased, increasing the use of recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges and including sustainability clauses in contracts and tenders.

- The Branch continued to provide staff support to Manitoba's Sustainable Development Steering Committee and participate on working groups to implement the provisions of *The Sustainable Development Act*, including Code of Practice, Financial Management Guidelines, Procurement Guidelines and a Guidelines Regulation for local authorities and others. The Branch continued to provide information for the section on Consumption in Manitoba's Sustainability Indicators Report.

- The Branch hosted a Sustainable Development Guidelines Implementation Workshop for the Manitoba Public Sector in December 2004. Workshop participants represented the three sectors of Health, Education (school divisions, universities and colleges) and Municipalities (including Cities) under *The Sustainable Development Act* Guidelines Regulation. The Workshop was intended to foster networking and information sharing to facilitate progress on sustainable development implementation in the broader public sector.

Funding Programs

The Branch manages funding programs that support innovative solutions to environmental issues. Overall administrative support is provided to the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and three targeted allocations under the Fund are managed by the branch. These are the SDIF Open Category, the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

The Fund supports innovative projects, activities, research and developments that further the sustainability of Manitoba's environment, economy, human health and social well-being, and support

sustainable economic growth. The Fund encourages creation of partnerships towards improving sustainability.

A total of $2.9 million was expended to support the SDIF, including the Open Category and seven targeted broad allocations:

- Environmental Youth Corps (EYC)
- Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF)
- Manitoba Forestry Association Woodlot Program
- Orphan Mine Site Rehabilitation Program
- Orphan Mine Site Assessment Program
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund
- Zebra Mussel Program

The MCCAF is managed by Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology, the Orphan Mines Site Rehabilitation Program is managed by Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines, and the Zebra Mussel Program is managed by Manitoba Water Stewardship.

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* on the Fund, tabled in the Legislature.

Table P2.4
12.4(i) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	646.7	10.00	636.1	10.6	
Other Expenditures	793.4		749.9	43.5	
Total 12.4(i)	**1,440.1**	**10.00**	**1,386.0**	**54.1**	

Lands

The Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that that are governed by ***The Crown Lands Act***. The branch also has responsibility for wild rice under ***The Wild Rice Act***.

Lands Branch works closely with Regional Operations and other Program branches of the department to review applications and other proposals or programs involving Crown land and wild rice. The reviews also involve other departments and agencies of the provincial, federal and municipal governments as well as First Nations and external organizations, depending on the type of application and location of the Crown land.

The Branch administers the Grants in Lieu of taxes program for the department. In addition, it also provides support services to other branches in the drafting of Orders in Council, agreements, and Cabinet submissions.

The objectives of the branch are:

- To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into its processes and activities.
- To develop policies and processes that are transparent to the public and provide fair and equal opportunities to all Manitobans in allocations of Crown land;
- To ensure the Province receives full value for the disposition of Crown land through sale or rental.
- To facilitate delivery of the Northern Flood Agreement, Treaty Land Entitlement, and other First Nations land settlements and programs.
- To maintain complete and accurate records of Crown land inventories, encumbrances and dispositions;
- To provide a high level of service to government and the public.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

Cottaging Initiative

- The Lands Branch, in conjunction with other areas in the department, has been an active participant in the delivery of the Cottaging Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. The first two Public Draws took place in Spring 2004 and Fall 2004 and offered 576 lots.

- The program has been extremely well received and supported by municipalities and communities throughout the province.

- New development not only enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, but it also provides considerable economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.

- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development actually begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.

- There has been excellent response to the lot offerings with the number of applications exceeding the availability in all draws.

- Cottage subdivision details and draw information were made available through a new web site that went live June 15, 2004. There were over 24,000 visitors to the Cottaging web site for the June 2004 Draw, and 25,000 for the Fall 2004 Draw.

- 2,287 applicants entered the June 2004 Draw for a chance at one of the 376 lots. 365 people applied for the 202 Northern Manitoba lots offered in the Fall Draw.

- Lot selection meetings are held at multiple locations as a means of making the process more customer-friendly. The various locations are linked through teleconferencing, providing the public with convenient location choices in order to attend.

- The Cottage Draw Information Package information is available on the Conservation web site at www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging.

Crown Lands Operations

The section is responsible for ensuring due diligence is carried out in reviews and recommendations relative to applications for the use or occupation of Crown land.

Applications are received for a broad range of private, public and commercial uses. Each application must be assessed with respect to appropriate type of tenure for the proposed use or occupation and compliance with sustainable development principles, policies and legislation.

Types of tenure include permits, leases, licences of occupation, easements and fee simple title (sales). The review and approval process, terms and conditions, and time frames are different for each type of tenure. For example, a sale application usually requires a much more comprehensive process which is significantly more lengthy than that required for a permit application.

The review process for all applications includes circulation of the application throughout government as well as to municipal authorities, planning districts, conservation districts and First Nations. The recipients of the circulation are determined based on the type of application, proposed land use and location of the Crown land.

The section is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to an approved disposition. These include Sale, Lease, Licence of Occupation and easement agreements, Land Grants, Land Transfers, Real Property Applications, Caveats, Assignments, Collateral Assignments. Accuracy is essential due to the high consequence of error.

In 2004/2005 the section completed 90 sales, 10 easements, 66 general permits, and 102 licences of occupation. It currently administers 2,831 permits and 535 leases, 110 Licences of Occupation and 1,086 easements.

Operations section is also responsible for administration of wild rice licences and permits on Crown land under ***The Wild Rice Act***. A Development Licence may be issued for a three-year period for test seeding and development prior to converting to a Production Licence.

The section currently administers 261 Wild Rice Licences.

Aboriginal Land Programs

The unit is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and aboriginal communities. It represents the Branch and serves a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. The section enjoys close and co-operative working relationships with First Nations and provides information,

explanations and assistance to facilitate selections of Crown land and resolution of issues associated with selections. The section represents the Branch in the consultation process with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for Crown land proposals.

Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

The primary responsibility of the section is the clearance and transfer of Crown land to Canada for entitlement First Nations under the *Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement*. A custom-designed computer GIS system known as TRELES was developed to manage the program. The system tracks and maps selections and acreages, records circulation responses, tracks and reports on issues associated with selections and resolutions to the issues, and generates status reports on demand. The section works closely with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs who has the lead responsibility in delivery of the program.

To date the Section has reviewed in excess of one million acres of Crown land selections. To ensure consistency with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies have reviewed the sites. The section has formulated a Provincial Position on each site and held discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.

The section participates in an all party committee to develop agreed forms for the transfer of lands between Canada and Manitoba and works with other branches and regions within the department to develop methods and procedures for the delivery of programs to ensure compliance with the terms of the Framework Agreement. It currently provides technical support to the Peguis First Nation Land Claim negotiations.

Other programs and agreements the sections is involved in or responsible for include The Northern Flood Agreement, Grand Rapids Forebay Agreements, land exchanges, and other land claims or treaty land entitlements. The section currently administers 11 Exclusive Use Permits issued to TLE First Nations and 99 Land Use Permits issued to First Nations and Communities under their respective agreements.

Table LA.1
Treaty Land Entitlement Status

1997 TLE Framework Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected by First Nations	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Canada Survey Completed - Land Transferred to Canada
Barren Lands	66,420	16,961.94		
Northlands	94,084	67,549.47		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,684.90		
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,646.98		2,369.70
Fox Lake	26,391	100.02		
Gods Lake	42,600	41,252.05	5,689.56	7,654.45
Gods River	8,725	9,963.49	4,282.81	
Mathias Colomb	217,364	199,514.46		
Marcel Colomb	17,007			
Nisichawayasihk	79,435	104,633.58	14,760.55	8,304.24
Norway House	104,784	107,582.61	21,523.72	24,716.20
Opaskwayak	47,658	42,771.01	1772.60	8,699.60
Oxford House	35,434	39,272.35	14,265.98	
Rolling River	2,356	2,350.70		2,350.70
Sapotaweyak	108,134	113,706.45	94,513.19	4,566.00
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,303.59		23,468.88
Sayisi Dene	22,372	0.00		
Shamattawa	24,912	19,350.05		
War Lake	7,156	6,746.31		
York Factory	29,173	10,806.13		
TOTAL	985,949	835,196.09	156,808.41	82,129.77

1994 TLE Settlement Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Canada Survey Completed - Land Transferred to Canada
Garden Hill*	45,369.00	52,000.00	3,892.06	39,206.00
Red Sucker Lake	9,487.00	16,650.00		9,585.37
St. Theresa Point*	34,908.00	35,250.00		35,185.80
Wasagamack*	12,493.00	13,300.00		12,511.30
TOTAL	102,257.00	117,200.00	3,892.06	96,488.47

*Includes additional acres necessary to accommodate future public purpose requirement

2004/2005 TLE Framework Agreement Activity

200,000 acres of Crown land selections were reviewed by Aboriginal Land Programs in accordance with the principles of the Framework Agreement TLE.

250,000 acres of selected Crown lands were conditionally approved by Manitoba for transfer to Canada.

44,000 acres of selected Crown lands were approved by Manitoba for transfer to Canada.
(Completion of survey by Canada required prior to transfer.)

46,378 acres of Crown lands were surveyed by Canada, allowing these lands to be transferred by Manitoba to Canada

Table LA.2
12.4(j)1 Crown Lands Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	719.0	15.00	720.8	(1.8)	
Other Expenditures	1,546.8		1,489.2	57.6	
Total 12.4(j)1	**2,265.8**	**15.00**	**2,210.0**	**55.8**	

Crown Lands Registry

This section maintains secure and accurate records of current and historic dispositions of Crown land. Records of dispositions and all related documents are maintained in the computerized Crown Land Registry System. The Records Vault holds microfiche and paper files containing copies of agreements, documents, correspondence and other information related to each specific parcel of land.

The Registry is the authoritative source of original grants of land and mineral interests from the Crown. This includes dispositions made by the Dominion Government prior to the transfer of natural resources to the province in 1930.

The section provides a number of services to a wide range of government departments, the public and private agencies. These services include:

- Providing computerized queries, reports and historical searches of Crown land records.
- Producing invoices, statements and permits for Lands Branch, Parks and Natural Areas Branch, and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.
- Providing information to the public and private sector regarding mines and minerals ownership.
- Administering the approval process for requests by municipalities for approval to sell government road allowances.
- Administering approval process for transfer of Mines and Minerals for subdivision purposes.
- Recording all transactions and maintaining records related to Crown land dispositions, reservations and Order In Council designations.
- Recording agricultural permits and leases, and quarry permits and leases on the Crown Land Registry System.
- Managing microfilming and archiving requirements for Crown land records.
- Maintaining records of Crown lands reserved for purposes of fulfilling obligations under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, Northern Flood Agreement, and other First Nations land claims.
- Providing online access to the Registry to other branches and departments of government.
- Providing a wide range of management and work flow reports.

The integration of geographic information technologies into the Crown Land Registry System (CLRS) is in progress. This involves development of a module to be added to the Registry application that will provide seamless real time updates between CLRS and GIS.

Table LA.3
12.4(j)2 Crown Lands Registry

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	211.8	6.00	253.0	(41.2)	
Other Expenditures	121.9		127.7	(5.8)	
Total 12.4(j)2	**333.7**	**6.00**	**380.7**	**(47.0)**	

Remote Sensing

The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation, and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba. This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Conservation Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.

The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC) processed NOAA/AVHRR satellite data for Canadian World Crop Monitoring Program, Canadian Global Change Program, and Parks Canada, covering all of Canada, using GEOCOMP satellite image processing. Cloud-free image composites were created every 10 days between April 11 and October 30, 2004.

The MRSC in conjunction with Manitoba Conservation-Forestry Branch and in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service-Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) of Forests project continued the forest land cover data for Manitoba using satellite data to meet core forest information needs of the Kyoto Protocol, the international Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was the second year of a three-year project. Work commenced on the Taiga Shield and Hudson Bay Plain ecozones.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- An assessment of potential wetlands along a corridor from Long Lake to the Sheyenne river west of Devils Lake, North Dakota was completed using Quickbird Satellite. This work was completed for Water Stewardship.

Topographic Mapping

- Digital topographic data for the Cross Lake Northern Flood Agreement at a scale of 1:2000 is 90% complete. Topologically structured all data and are in the process of producing 125 .pdf files at a scale of 1:4000 for preliminary work on severance line or parcel boundary adjustment. At present only 5 parcels—Cross 1.2 Cross 4.1 Cross 1.5 Cross 1.3 and Hill Lake are complete but not at the signoff stage. Hydro severance and Survey Services parcel boundary information is required before completion of project.

- Forestry Branch: Digital Elevation Models were completed with the production of contours for the following fmu's 20, 42, 15, 5 and 6 thus allowing them to define a net operable land base in which to conduct their wood supply analysis.

- Completed 75% of the 1:60,000 topographic mapping compilation project for the Winnipegosis Region.

- Ten new drain designation maps were completed for the Water Stewardship geographic information system. Through the enhancement of the digital topographic data, drains are designated by their degree of contribution to the overall stream flow, as well as the installation of culverts to assure continuous flow within the digital elevation model being developed for Water Stewardship.

- Negotiations with Natural Resources Canada for the integration of the 1:50,000 National Topographic Series mapping program with the Provincial product to expedite the process of base mapping in northern Manitoba commenced. The Branch provided updating of geo-spatial vector data for 4, 1:50,000 National Topographic Mapping Program jointly for the Provincial and Federal Governments.

- Forty two R.M. boundary computations and topographical data were structured for corresponding boundaries intended for GIS user community and the MLI.

- Transformed 155 1:20,000 map sheets into new 3dimensional shape files and new .dxf formats for the MLI.

- Aerial triangulation and compilation were completed for 3 shoreline plots intended for the Survey Services Branch.

- The complete road and rail network layer from the 1:20,000 mapping product were structured into a seamless dxf and shape format for the MLI.

- Completely structured all building polygons within the 1:20,000 data set thus producing a seamless data set in both dxf and shape formats for the MLI. The Emergency Response initiative and civic addressing will be the primary beneficiaries of this information.

- In progress is the creation of a seamless data set for five other layers of topographic data.

Geographical Names

- Research assistance was provided to a local Island Lake resident in evaluating and verifying hundreds of geographical names for features in the project area. The researcher intends to publish the location and origin data for educational and historical purposes.

- The development of a national prototype for Canadian Geographical Names Service (CGNS) became a reality when the Natural Resources Canada officially released the GNApp component in September 2004. Manitoba assisted in the development of this application that allows Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) members to directly maintain the CGNS data warehouse using a web-based interface.

- Staff continued to research and approve official name decisions on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, who is responsible for Manitoba geographical names. These decisions and research enhance the Manitoba Geographical Names Data Base (MGNDB) which contains all current and archival name records and provides a means for its timely distribution through automated information systems, maps, brochures, gazetteers, and commemorative name certificates.

- Volunteer staff assisted in the preparation of special commemorative name certificates for the Battle of the Atlantic Day Remembrance Ceremony held on May 2nd, 2004. The program researched the geographical features and the biographical information on the seventeen Manitobans lost on the HMCS *Valleyfield*.

- The service related to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans regarding the correct spelling, usage, origin of names, and, in particular, to government departments and agencies for support of a vital toponymic quality control service for government maps, signs, and other documentation was maintained.

- The updating and distribution of the program publications, **Geographical Names of Manitoba** and **A Place of Honour** - Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in its Geography continued.

- Liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada was maintained regarding name decisions, revisions of principles and procedures.

Table LA.4
12.4(j)3 Remote Sensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	600.4	11.00	579.0	21.4	
Other Expenditures	217.9		213.7	4.2	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	0.0		(23.7)	23.7	
Total 12.4(j)3	**818.3**	**11.00**	**769.0**	**49.3**	

Land Mapping Services

The primary function of this section is to develop and maintain province wide digital (cadastral) property parcel data. The developed digital land parcel data forms a fundamental component of a province-wide, multi-purpose information system. Its purpose is to provide provincial land data users with a means of spatially referencing their own land data records such as infrastructure, assessment, ownership, land use, etc., to a common, geo-referenced, land parcel base that is timely, precise and homogeneous.

- Development of digital land parcel data in both urban and rural areas continued to expand to meet increasing demand by data users. More than 11,000 land parcels were added to the province's MLI Data Warehouse including parcel data sets for the communities of Winkler, Plum Coulee, Ste Anne and Libau as part of parcel mapping service provided to Community Planning Branch of Intergovernmental Affairs and Forestry Branch's Dutch Elm Disease program. Parcel mapping of 6 townships was completed. This provided partial coverage of 4 rural municipalities - the R.M.s of Springfield, Ste. Anne, St. Andrews and Langford. The township mapping also provided Crown Lands and the Dept. of Intergovernmental Affairs and major clients such as Manitoba Hydro and MTS Mapping with densified parcel mapping within the Capital Region. The mapping of two entire Parishes - the Parish of High Bluff and the Parish of Poplar Point provided a significant contribution of parcel mapping of the Assiniboine River corridor between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie to meet Water Stewardship GIS parcel mapping needs with respect to dyking and water control parcels throughout the corridor. Over 80 separate MLI digital mapping

datasets were updated under the section's annual maintenance program to ensure timeliness of the parcel data to end-users.

- A major redesign of the section's parcel data format took place to increase their ease of use. Shape file datasets were converted to a single cadastral polygon layer as opposed to their previous multi layer environment in which parcel polygons were divided into layers based on parcel type. Several more attributes were added and some data types of attributes were changed in order to conform to the MLI data standards of having attributes as character data types.

- Beginning in March of 2004 the Section created preliminary cottage lot designs for 22 sites for the 2004/2005 Manitoba Cottage Lot Initiative under the auspices of Crown Lands. Approved designs out of this group formed an integral part of the Fall 2004 public draw for provincial cottage lots and for the 2005 spring draw. The sites were province wide from Lake Athapapuskow in the north to St. Malo in the south and at least 6 sites in the Lac du Bonnet and Winnipeg River areas.

- The section continues to dedicate its efforts to development of a seamless digital reference grid of the DLS township/range quarter-section system in southern Manitoba. This product is deemed essential for meeting departmental and public sector requirements for a general purpose grid that will support land referencing and spatial referencing needs on several levels from thematic mapping to GIS application development. The section supports the cause by creating and maintaining the relevant map files as well as computing coordinates for the DLS township framework markers where they have been tied to provincial survey control networks.

Table LA.5
12.4(j)4 Land Mapping Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	577.6	9.00	558.7	18.9	
Other Expenditures	64.4		65.5	(1.1)	
Total 12.4(j)4	**642.0**	**9.00**	**624.2**	**17.8**	

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides direction for and facilitates development of legislation, policies, plans and programs to sustainably manage resources and the environment.

Divisional responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and integrating natural resource policy, legislation, environmental impact assessments, co-management agreements, land-use planning and resource allocation.
- Promoting and facilitating effective involvement of aboriginal people in management of natural resources and the environment.
- Managing the environmental approvals process to ensure sustainability of developments.
- Undertaking reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programming.
- Providing financial support to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment and the Manitoba Eco-Network.
- Ensuring that effective relations are maintained with other governments.
- Negotiating resource co-management agreements.

Environmental Stewardship Division comprises:

- Sustainable Resource Management Branch
- Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
- Aboriginal Relations Branch

Table ES.1
12.5(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	158.2	2.00	167.2	(9.0)	
Other Expenditures	39.6		67.1	(27.5)	
Northern Initiatives	85.9		250.0	(164.1)	1.
Grant Assistance	117.2		122.5	(5.3)	
Total 12.5(a)	**400.9**	**2.00**	**606.8**	**(205.9)**	

1. Lower than anticipated program uptake.

Sustainable Resource Management

The Branch co-ordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation and Crown land use planning, environmental impact assessment, legislative development and interpretation and co-management, in accordance with principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of ***The Sustainable Development Act.*** The Branch provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, represents the department in issues related to internal and international trade agreements, provides support on communications issues, co-ordinates preparation of ministerial correspondence and co-ordinates departmental settlements and litigation arising out of hydro-electric and water-control projects and Treaty Land Entitlement.

The Branch provides strategic planning, analytic, economic and evaluative services to assist management to improve the effectiveness of departmental programming, Crown land-use planning and resource allocation. This includes:

- integrating conservation policies and programs with other departments, including inter-departmental and inter-governmental committee participation;
- assisting in the planning of land and resources by municipalities and planning districts;
- assisting in the Provincial Crown Land Cottage Lot Initiative;
- assisting in the review of *Annual Operating Plans* of forest management licensees and forest renewal strategies;
- reviewing applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund and the Fisheries Enhancement Initiative Fund;
- co-ordinating licensing of resource-based tourism facilities and services, such as hunting and fishing lodges, outfitters, and ecotourism; and
- leading an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, including participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Integrated Directors Group Review Process

The Branch is secretariat to the Integrated Directors Group, which establishes procedures for integrating management of natural resources and the environment, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The Branch, through the IDG process, co-ordinates the review and development of departmental positions on resource management issues such as *Environment Act* proposals, municipal development plan amendments, Crown oil and natural gas lease sales, highways proposals, applications for the Special Conservation Fund, and applications to the Licensing Advisory Committee.

Legislation and Inter-governmental Affairs

The Branch helps to ensure the appropriateness of conservation legislation and regulations and ensure that beneficial working relationships are established and maintained with other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Branch provides co-ordination for headquarters operations, regions, other branches, departments, and agencies on new and amending legislation and on litigation. An advisory service on interpretation and application is provided to the department and the public.

Legislation and regulations are developed, reviewed and amended, the department is represented on Federal/Provincial committees and task forces, and agreements are negotiated to ensure consistent and effective environmental management.

The Branch liaises with legal counsel in Manitoba Justice and provides internal consulting service on legislative, public consultation, intergovernmental and other issues.

Legislation

Manitoba Conservation has administrative responsibility for 27 statutes and 91 regulations. In addition, Manitoba Conservation's officers have inspection and enforcement responsibilities under ***The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act***, as well as 10 regulations under ***The Public Health Act*** and a number of City of Winnipeg health by-laws.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- Amendments to ***The Wildlife Act*** were introduced in the Manitoba Legislature on March 10, 2005.
- The *Porcupine Provincial Forest Activities Management Regulation* was registered on May 18, 2004, creating a protected area within the Porcupine Provincial Forest. In this protected area logging, mining, petroleum, natural gas and hydro-electric power developments and any other activities with a significant adverse effect on habitat are prohibited.
- Twenty-four amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending eighteen existing regulations including:
    - an amendment to the *Provincial Snowmobile Trail Regulation* under ***The Crown Lands Act***
    - an amendment to the *Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation* under ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***
    - two amendments to the *Ecological Reserves Designation Regulation* under ***The Ecological Reserves Act***
    - an amendment to the *Designation of Provincial Forests* under ***The Forest Act***
    - an amendment to the *Designation of Provincial Forests Regulation* under ***The Forest Act***
    - an amendment to each of the *Chief Place of Residence Levy Regulation*, the *Park Activities Regulation* and the *Park Fees Regulation*, four amendments to the *Park Reserves Designation Regulation* and three amendments to the *Provincial Parks Designation Regulation* under ***The Provincial Parks Act***
    - an amendment to each of the *General Hunting Regulation*, the *Hunting Guides Regulation*, the *Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation*, the *Trapping Areas and Zones Regulation*, the *Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation*, the *Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation*, the *Wildlife Fees and Royalties Regulation* and the *Wildlife Permit Exemption Regulation* under ***The Wildlife Act***.
- More detail regarding the contents of the twenty-six legislative and regulatory initiatives identified above may be found in those sections of this report that provide program-specific descriptions of activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Affairs

The following activities occurred during the reporting period:

- supported the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME);
- worked co-operatively with the CCME Secretariat and other Canadian jurisdictions to co- ordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada;
- monitored trade and environment issues, including the Canada/United States softwood lumber trade dispute;
- supported the Minister as member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation;
- supported Manitoba's activities with relation to the federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) 1999, and monitored activities related to the Five-Year Parliamentary Review of the legislation.
- participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
    - North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee),
    - Canada-Costa Rica Agreement on Environmental Cooperation,
    - Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Committees, including supporting Manitoba's role as Chair of the national Contaminated Site Liability Scoping Group, and the follow-up committee, the Contaminated Site and Brownfield Task Group which has completed its work.
    - CCME Environmental Protection and Planning Committee.
- supported the government's climate change and water stewardship activities and liaised with staff overseeing these activities; and
- continued participation in the sustainability indicators project under the Canada/South Africa Twinning Program.

The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the *Agreement on Internal Trade*, *NAFTA* and *GATT/WTO* agreements. Activities included representing the department in development and implementation of the *Processing of Natural Resources* chapter of the ***Agreement on Internal Trade***, co-ordinating activities associated with implementation of *NAFTA*, monitoring trade developments in resource issues, and conducting liaison with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.

Co-Management Initiatives

The Branch develops policy, procedures and guidelines for co-management of natural resources with First Nations, communities and organizations and leads departmental participation in various settlement agreements. Activities undertaken included:

- co-ordinated consultation with First Nations and northern communities on resource allocations for lodges and outfitters;
- oversaw the implementation and development of the *Northern Flood Agreement* resource management agreements and Grand Rapids Forebay Comprehensive Agreements;
- lead co-management discussions on new departmental initiatives (Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the West Region Tribal Council and the Manitoba Métis Federation);
- acted as a liaison with other provinces, territories and the federal government; and
- lead an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a

result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. This includes participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Treaty Land Entitlement

The Branch formulates the department's position on Treaty Land Entitlement issues. Policies are developed concerning the availability of Crown land to meet Treaty Land Entitlement obligations. The Branch also leads Departmental involvement in new Treaty Land Entitlement agreements.

Hydro-Electric and Water-Control Project Settlements

The Branch leads departmental input into settlements arising out of the *Northern Flood Agreement*, the *Grand Rapids Forebay Project*, Fairford River control structure and other claims by First Nations and communities resulting from hydro-electric or water-control projects. Negotiations with Cross Lake First Nation regarding the *Northern Flood Agreement* are continuing as are settlement efforts with the communities of Cross Lake and Norway House.

Licensing Advisory Committee

The Branch provides secretariat and Chair for the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC). The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and their services, and the permitting of their associated facilities, for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. About 1,350 licences and permits were issued last year.

The Branch serves as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

Sustainable Development Implementation

The Branch administers ***The Sustainable Development Act***, co-ordinates implementation of the Act within the department and supports and assists in the implementation of the Act interdepartmentally, by Crown corporations, universities, colleges, school divisions, regional health authorities and local government.

The Branch:

- is a member of and provided secretariat support to the interdepartmental Steering Committee established to oversee implementation of the Act;
- is the co-chair or member of five interdepartmental working groups established to:
    - recommend ways and means for implementing the sustainable development code of practice,
    - refine the sustainability indicators and prepare the Provincial Sustainability Report,
    - prepare the procurement and financial management guidelines regulation;
    - recommend strategies and actions to provide the needed staff education, training and information respecting the implementation of the various components to the Act;
    - prepare a sustainable development communication/education strategy;
- is a member of the departmental procurement implementation committee established to prepare and oversee implementation of Manitoba Conservation's sustainable development procurement action plan;

- provides information on the requirements of the Act and process for and progress made at implementation.

During the reporting period:

- the Sustainability Working Group continued to work on the implementation of the *Sustainability Guidelines for Local Governments, School Divisions, Universities, Colleges and Regional Health Authorities Regulation* which was passed in January, 2004; and
- work continued on the development of the Provincial Sustainability Report.
- The Branch provided administrative and research services and support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development.

Land Use Planning

The Branch coordinates three principal land use planning initiatives - broad area planning, Crown land planning and departmental input into local municipal planning. Additionally, the Branch is the departmental lead in the regular review of the province's land use policies and assists in various related land programs, including the Protected Areas Initiative and Provincial Crown Land Cottage Lot Initiative.

East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative

The Branch coordinates the East Side Planning Initiative and provides secretariat support to the East Side Round Table and its two principal advisory bodies, the East Side First Nation Council and the East Side Advisory Committee.

Activities undertaken:

- A video on the purpose and objectives of the initiative, as well as the *East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative Phase I Report*, were produced in English, Cree, Ojibwe and Oji-Cree, to assist in communicating consistent information.
- The East Side Round Table completed a first round of community visits, engaging 34 First Nations, Northern Affairs and Metis communities on the east side.
- Community input was presented in two reports: *What We Heard – By Community* and *What We Heard – By Issue*. Both were deposited in the Public Registry and placed on the ESPI website.
- The Secretariat completed meetings with community Elders.
- Five Provincial Cabinet Ministers, Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, Eric Robinson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Tim Sale, Minister of Science and Technology and Scott Smith, Minister of Economic Development, met with 14 First Nation communities.
- The East Side First Nations Council entered into discussions with Ministers of the Manitoba government to develop an *Aboriginal Memorandum of Understanding*, which will lead to a protocol to govern all future negotiations on the appropriate uses of land on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.
- A status report was issued: *Promises to keep . . . Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg*.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Manitoba Government and East Side First Nations.
- Discussions ensued with Government regarding the implementation of Report Recommendations by the East Side Round Table and First Nation Council.

Crown land planning

The Branch provided planning and secretariat support to the Crown Land Classification Committee (CLCC) and now provides support to the Crown Lands ADM Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintains and administers a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepares *Crown Land Plans*. The Branch also administers the Committee's system for the review and determination on disposition (sale, exchange, designation by Order-in-Council) of Crown lands, and formulates and maintains the committee's policy and procedure manual.

The Branch completed the annual updating of the report *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans Report* for 2004, which was printed and distributed. Over 300 land classification changes were made to the Crown land plans. These plans are used in the day-to-day administration of Crown land and support various government initiatives and departmental programs.

The Branch circulated to the members of the Interdepartmental Planning Board, local councils, conservation districts and Bloc Planning Committees a number of proposed Crown land designations. The following proposed Crown land designations were reviewed:

- Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve.
- Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserve.
- Armit Meadows Ecological Reserve.

The branch also facilitated the review of 5 Crown land sale applications and 21 Crown land sale appeals.

Other Crown Land Programs

The Branch provided advice and support for the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities including discussions on the development of agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada in support of the program.

The Branch also provided support to the Provincial Crown Land Cottage Lot program 2004 fall and 2005 spring draws. This included coordinating any required land use code changes and assisting in the preparation of information packages and program procedures and policy development.

Municipal Land Planning

The Branch assists municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by co-ordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources (wildlife, fish, surface and ground water, forests, outdoor recreation, ecological significant areas, parks, natural areas and Crown lands) and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

The Branch co-ordinates development of departmental positions and advice on all proposed new and amended *Development Plans* and *Zoning By-laws* and other municipal issues such as road closures and land annexations.

As of January 2004, the Branch undertook to coordinate the departmental review of all proposed subdivisions within the Red River Region. At the same time, a database to track all municipal proposals was also initiated.

For the fiscal year 2004-05 the Branch coordinated the departmental review of:

- 345 proposed land subdivisions,
- 125 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments,
- 56 proposed development plans and amendments, and
- 12 other proposed municipal land related issues.

Provincial Land Use Policies

The Branch continued to participate in the review of the proposed revision of the provincial land use policies.

Table SR.1
12.5(b) Sustainable Resource Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	903.5	15.00	979.8	(76.3)	
Other Expenditures	1,145.3		954.5	190.8	1.
Grant Assistance	10.2		10.2	0.0	
Total 12.5(b)	**2,059.0**	**15.00**	**1,944.5**	**114.5**	

1. Over expenditure is primarily due to higher than anticipated East Side planning costs.

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch

To ensure that development maintains sustainable environmental quality, the Branch:

- Administers development approval requirements of ***The Environment Act***, ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***, ***The Public Health Act*** and ***The Pesticides Regulation***,
- Controls municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants,
- Minimizes environmental impact of development proposals, and
- Minimizes adverse effects to the environment and public health from pesticide use.

To ensure that water and wastewater facilities are operated by competent and trained operators, the Branch:

- Administers the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation.

Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste Section

To control municipal, industrial and hazardous waste sources of pollutants, the Section:

- Co-ordinates environmental assessment and licensing of proposed Developments,
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for *Development Licences*,
- Advises on technical aspects of pollutant treatment, control strategies, and hazardous waste,
- Reviews mine site rehabilitation schemes,
- Provides technical assistance to municipal, provincial, and federal governments on wastewater collection, treatment and disposal, air emission control, and management of hazardous wastes,
- Provides technical support to other Departments,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages,

- Responds to complaints and inquiries, and
- Represents the Department at public meetings or hearings.

To administer the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation, the Section:

- Has developed three sub-programs,
- Has developed an amending regulation to make necessary adjustments to the program,
- Operates the certification examination sub-program,
- Works with other stakeholders to develop educational courses for operators.

Environmental Land Use Section

To ensure that potential environmental impacts are identified and addressed in projects which affect land and water use, the Section:

- Co-ordinates environmental assessment and licensing of proposed developments in recreation, transportation, transmission, pipelines, hydro-electric generation, forest management, and water development and control,
- Co-ordinates environmental review of proposed Treaty Land Entitlements,
- Co-ordinates environmental review of Canada/Manitoba Infrastructure Works projects,
- Assists developing and revising legislation, policies and procedures,
- Participates in and provides technical advice for projects and program planning, including screening of Manitoba Transportation and Government Services projects,
- Participates on interdepartmental committees and task forces, and review and approval by letter, of projects with environmental impacts not included in *Classes of Development Regulation*,
- Provides management services for such other initiatives as Manitoba Model Forest and Manitoba Forestry Association,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages,
- Responds to complaints and inquiries, and
- Represents the Department at hearings and public meetings.

Pesticide Section

To minimize adverse effects to health and the environment from pesticides and fertilizers, the Section:

- Provides professional expertise to the Department, government, public, and industry on pesticide/fertilizer use, storage, disposal, and control,
- Manages a *Pesticide Permit* system to address public concerns/objections,
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for ***Environment Act*** *Licences*,
- Assists in periodic revision of *National Standard for Pesticide Education, Training, and Certification in Canada* for pesticide applicators and vendors,
- Provides technical expertise and advice on container disposal and other environmental concerns,
- Supplies expertise to the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides through annual national meetings and telephone conferences,

- Serves on FPT Sub-Committees: for Healthy Lawns, Classification Implementation Group, Buffer Zone Committee and Risk Communication Committee
- Serves on the Board of Directors and provides information to the Prairie Provinces Certified Crop Advisor program,
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages, and
- Responds to complaints and inquiries respecting pesticide/fertilizer use.

Table EA.1

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities

(ELU - Environmental Land Use; P - Pesticide; MIHW - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste)

Activities	ELU (#)		P (#)		MIHW (#)		Total	
	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04
The Environment Act								
Project proposals received	13	11	7	10	24	20	**44**	41
Project proposals processed	11	11	7	10	18	19	**36**	40
Project proposals refused	0	0	0	0	2	0	**0**	0
Minor alterations requests received	10	7	3	5	26	20	**39**	32
Minor alterations requests processed	10	7	3	5	26	20	**39**	32
Revision requests to *Licences* approved	6	2	0	2	3	0	**9**	4
Pre-Licensing activities processed	36	30	0	0	11	12	**47**	42
Highways pre-planning reviews	7	8					**7**	8
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	27	33			33	0	**60**	33
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	5	3					**5**	3
Other Reviews. Licence not required	41	39	0	0	3	2	**44**	41
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	84	99	69	91	48	38	**201**	228
Pesticide Use Permits Issued			228	224			**228**	224
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled			222	207			**222**	207
Public complaints investigated	24	27	7	13	9	8	**40**	48
Public meetings attended	29	34	4	3	12	13	**45**	50
Public Hearings attended	1	1	0	0	2	4	**3**	5
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act								
Project proposals received					8	3	**8**	3
Project proposals processed					3	3	**3**	3
Minor alterations requests received					2	2	**2**	2
Minor alterations requests processed					1	2	**1**	2
Pre-Licensing activities					8	5	**8**	5
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					10	5	**10**	5
Public meetings attended					0	0	**0**	0
The Public Health Act								
Fumigation Permits issued			2	2			**2**	2

Activities	ELU (#)		P (#)		MIHW (#)		Total	
	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04	04-05	03-04
Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation								
Certification Examination					850	530	**850**	0
Plant Classifications Issued					0	0	**0**	0
Certificates Issued					0	0	**0**	0

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

- A certification program coordinator has been hired. Two sub-programs are being implemented to fully operationalize the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation*. An amending regulation has been developed to address necessary changes to the Regulation.
- A Licence was issued to the City of Winnipeg for its West End wastewater treatment plant. Development of a licence for the City's North End wastewater treatment plant has started with an expected completion date in the spring of 2005.
- The Branch has been working with a several project teams that are interested in expanding the livestock processing capacity in the province. Advice documents on environmental impact assessment were prepared to assist project proponents.
- The Branch has been active in the development of a Municipal Wastewater Strategy in accordance with direction from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The development of this strategy is a joint effort of all regulatory jurisdictions in Canada. Consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders is ongoing.

- Winter road relocations: Co-ordinated the environmental assessment and licencing of winter road relocations in accordance with the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation*.
- Hydro Projects: The cooperative environmental review process under the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation* continued with respect to the proposed Wuskwatim projects. A Clean Environment Commission hearing was held and the CEC Report to the Minister subsequently released. Draft *Environment Act* Licences have been prepared. Discussions with the Department of Energy Science and Technology and Manitoba Hydro continued with respect to future hydro developments as identified in Manitoba's proposed Clean Energy Transfer Initiative.
- Flood Protection Works: Environmental assessment activities continued for the expansion of the Red River Floodway. A cooperative environmental assessment process was initiated with federal agencies pursuant to the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation*. A Clean Environment Commission public hearing on the proposed expansion of the Red River Floodway was held in Winnipeg and Oakbank, between February 14, 2005 and March 10, 2005.
- St. Leon Wind Energy Project: An Environmental Protection Plan was filed in April 2004 in accordance with the requirements of *the Environment Act* Licence issued to the St. Leon Wind Energy Limited Partnership, for the construction and operation of a 99 megawatt wind farm, near St. Leon. This will be the first wind farm in Manitoba. The first three of a total of sixty three turbines were constructed under the direction of AirSource Power Fund.
- Manitoba Model Forest: Involvement continued, with staff on Board of Directors. Staff was actively involved in attending meetings of Directors and Advisory Groups, and participating and assisting with planning of meetings, research workshops and conferences. Liaison and project planning activities continued with the twinned Monarch Butterfly Model Forest in Mexico.
- Pesticide Use Permits: review and approval of applications for pesticide use continued. Government departments and municipalities require a Pesticide Use Permit annually.

- Crop Protection Warehouses/Fertilizer Developments: review of applications to upgrade agricultural chemical storage facilities to meet industry standards continued. All facilities are required to meet stringent requirements in order to receive chemical products.
- Pesticide Regulations: Health Canada continued with their *Action Plan for Urban Use Pesticides*, developed in partnership with provincial and territorial governments. A main objective is reducing pesticide use on lawns by applying Integrated Pest Management principles emphasising prevention, reduced-risk products, and pesticide application only when necessary. Pesticide Classification Implementation Working Group produced *A Proposal for a National Pesticide Classification System for Canada* to harmonize federal and provincial classification systems. Consultation with interested stakeholders was completed. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has made a commitment to begin the harmonized implementation of the new system.
- West Nile Virus: Continued cooperation with federal, provincial and territorial ministries, and Manitoba Health with a comprehensive, co-ordinated, and pro-active *Risk Management Plan* to respond to West Nile Virus.

Table EA.2
Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act* 2004-2005

Section 18(2) of ***The Environment Act*** states:
"A suspension or variation granted pursuant to subsection (1) shall be recorded in the public registry and in the department's annual report."

The following suspensions requests were approved by the Department of Conservation during the **2004/2005** fiscal year:

Date	Location	Purpose
Apr. 28/04	Niverville, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #737
Apr. 29/04	Tembec Paper Group Pine Falls Wastewater Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #638
May 11/04	Winnipeg Beach, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #314VCOO
May 26/04	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Brochet Sewage Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #456
May 27/04	Lakeview, R.M. of Langruth Wastewater Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1842
June 13/04	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Norway House Sewage Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1168
June 14/04	Wpg. Condominium Corp. #20 Shorepointe Village	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #2268
June 17/04	Tache, R.M. of Landmark Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #2025 R
Oct. 25/04	Aspenheim Colony Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Discharge of Effluent *Environment Act* Licence #2303
Oct. 26/04	Highway Gardens Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1355
Nov. 1/04	Winkler, Town of Wastewater Facility	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #2525
Nov. 1/04	Rosebank Colony Farms Wastewater Facility	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1326 R
Nov. 3/04	Springfield, R.M. of Oakbank Sewage Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1772 S1
Nov. 4/04	Gimli, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1467
Nov. 16/04	Springfield, R.M. of Oakbank Sewage Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence #1772 S1
Nov. 17/04	Emerson, Town of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence # 2382
Dec. 9/04	Concord Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge *Environment Act* Licence # 1165

Table EA.3
12.5(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	990.3	14.00	962.1	28.2	
Other Expenditures	173.7		272.9	(99.2)	1.
Total 12.5(c)	**1,164.0**	**14.00**	**1,235.0**	**(71.0)**	

1. Lower than anticipated costs for operations.

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to improve the relationship with Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community, non-Aboriginal community, and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, sustainable development initiatives, and enforcement. Also the Branch facilitates communication between the various user interests and the Department.

The Branch is developing a policy on consultation with First Nation people. This policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The Branch was involved in all aspects of natural resource management, including program and policy review and development. It has also taken a role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department. In the long term, dialogue between all users and Aboriginal involvement in decision-making will lead to improved management of natural resources.

The following key activities were carried out in 2004/05.

General Activities

- Provided input from an Aboriginal perspective through review of natural resource management programs, proposed programs, and in developing resource policy and legislation.
- Met with Aboriginal community to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal community in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Participated in discussions and negotiations to develop formal agreements for managing natural resources.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with users of natural resources.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public, and educational institutions.

Specific Activities

- Participated in meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects. ARB participated as members of the Wuskwatim Steering Committee and the Wuskwatim Consultation Team.
- Served as Program Coordinator for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Initiative and as Co-Chair for the East Side First Nation Council.
- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Continued to participate in development of co-management agreements with the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba Métis Federation and the West Region Tribal Council.

- Reviewed and commented on Crown land sale lists.
- Continued to advance the need for a policy review to recognize the interests of First Nations people in the use and disposition (sale and lease) of Crown land.
- In consultation with Elders (Cree, Dakota and Ojibway), continued to refine the existing policy for Disposition of Dead Wild Animals to recognize the importance of wildlife including birds of prey and their disposition for traditional purposes by First Nations people.
- Updated and maintained the Aboriginal Relations Branch webpage for Manitoba Conservation website.
- Completed a joint video production with First Nation hunter's and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation entitle A *Hunter and Firearm Safety* education video.
- Developed a branch trade show display booth that will be used at Aboriginal community events, gathering and conferences.
- Produced the brochure, *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples.*
- Discussed with Grand Chiefs the erection of a forum for dialogue and communication between the Department and First Nations within Manitoba.

Table AR.1

12.5(d) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Salaries and Employee Benefits	210.3	3.00	203.9	6.4	
Other Expenditures	41.6		51.0	(9.4)	
Total 12.5(d)	**251.9**	**3.00**	**254.9**	**(3.0)**	

International Institute For Sustainable Development

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1

12.6 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	1,031.3		1,145.9	(114.6)	1.
Total 12.6	**1,031.3**		**1,145.9**	**(114.6)**	

1. Costs related to directed projects were less than anticipated.

MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and equipment.

Table IM.1
12.7(a) Equipment

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	340.8		410.6	(69.8)	
Total 12.7(a)	**340.8**		**410.6**	**(69.8)**	

Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program targets marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant negative changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a water regime that reflects natural wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Fish and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada. A 31 hectare (80 acre) parcel of land was acquired for inclusion in the Delta Heritage Marsh and proposed WMA.

The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 25,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2004.

Table IM.2
12.7(b) Critical Heritage Marshes

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	118.0		120.0	(2.0)	
Total 12.7(b)	**118.0**		**120.0**	**(2.0)**	

Park Facilities

As part of the Camping and Cottaging Initiative there were major campground expansion/electrification of campsites at Nutimik, Hecla, Watchorn, Paint Lake, Stephenfield and Blue Lake. Additionally, there was a thirty lot cottage subdivision developed at Whitesands within Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park. Water treatment facilities were upgraded at White Lake, Asessippi, Rainbow Beach, William Lake and the Falcon Lake Water Treatment Plant was completed at Falcon Lake. There was continued hiking trail development and improvements along the Trans Canada Trail in the north and south Whiteshell.

Table IM.3
12.7(c) Park Facilities

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
Other Expenditures	4,318.1		3,694.3	623.8	1.
Total 12.7(c)	**4,318.1**		**3,694.3**	**623.8**	

1. Over expenditure due to Cottage and Camping Initiative lot development costs.

COSTS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2004-05 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department. In 2004/05, the Province extended its capital asset accounting policy to infrastructure assets.

Table ACA.1
12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Estimate 2004/05		Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
	$(000)	FTE	$(000)	$(000)	
(a) Desktop Services					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	128.6		130.6	(2.0)	
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4		232.4	0.0	
(b) General Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,022.5		1,246.6	(224.1)	1.
(2) Interest Expense	347.6		433.8	(86.2)	
(c) Infrastructure Assets					
(1) Amoritzation Expense	1,907.5		1,911.0	(3.5)	
(1) Interest Expense	1,752.1		1,950.8	(198.7)	2.
Total 12.8	**5,390.7**		**5,905.2**	**(514.5)**	

1. During the asset verification process, adjustments were made to the general asset valuation. This has resulted in a reduction to amortization expense.

2. During the asset verification process, adjustments were made to the list of infrastructure assets.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides examples of some of the activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities.

Principles of Sustainable Development

1. Integration of Environmental (Social, Health) and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and

b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Pollution Prevention Branch hosted a Sustainable Development Guidelines Implementation Workshop for the Manitoba Public Sector. Workshop participants represented the three sectors of Health, Education (school divisions, universities and colleges) and Municipalities (including Cities) under *The Sustainable Development Act* Guidelines Regulation. The Workshop was intended to foster networking and information sharing to facilitate progress on sustainable development implementation in the broader public sector.

2. Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and

b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

Example:

- The provincial Protected Areas Initiative, whose goal it is to protect representative areas of Manitoba's natural regions for future generations, continued. The Department worked cooperatively with all stakeholders to identify and protect suitable candidate areas.

3. Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;

b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;

c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and

d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Northwest Region in partnership with local First Nations, non-government organizations and Saskatchewan Environment participated at meetings and developed budget proposals for projects designed to increase the moose population in the Cumberland Delta.

- Manitoba Conservation Northeast Region continued to work with First Nations in assessing the economic benefits from forest management activities. The focus was in the Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb First Nation) and Island Lake (St. Theresa Point First Nation) areas.

- Manitoba Conservation Eastern Region Committee for Moose Management continued to work with First Nation communities, fish and wildlife clubs and industry in fostering development of a "managed moose hunting system" that would apply to all people. Two local First Nations have secured funding to conduct community workshops to explore the idea further.

- As an ongoing co-management initiative between Manitoba Conservation and Western Region Tribal Council an Aboriginal Resource Technician was hired. The technician is responsible for providing technical assistance toward the development and implementation of long range resource management between Manitoba Conservation and West Region Tribal Council. This includes assisting in the delivery of co-management projects and programs through undertaking community consultations, data collection, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal users. The position will also participate in education, extension and communication of co-management initiatives for both Aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities and stakeholders.

- Manitoba Conservation Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch reviewed policies regarding problem bears over the past year, and engaged in consultations with staff and stakeholders. The meetings involved the City of Winnipeg and stakeholders like the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association and the Winnipeg Humane Society, and resulted in proposed changes to the Problem Black Bear Management Policy and Procedure directives. The amended directives will provide consistent direction to staff when handling or responding to problem black bear situations.

- Manitoba Conservation Aboriginal Relations Branch prepared a draft brochure pertaining to *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples.*

4. Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and

b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and regional personnel. Thirteen staff have been trained to National Fire Protection Agency 472 Technicians Level Hazardous Materials Responder, 25 staff have completed Incident Command Training, and 10 have completed Chemical/Biological /Radiological/Nuclear (CBRN) basic training. Various other training initiatives were made available to the response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

- Manitoba Conservation Computer Graphics maintained and improved the Red River Flood Management System, a web-based decision support system, designed to improve the ability of emergency managers, flood fighters, and valley residents to respond to future flood events.

- Manitoba Conservation Northwest Region completed the Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment for the orphaned mine site at Sherridon and meetings were held in the community to discuss the results.

- Manitoba Conservation is consulting on phase one of a new near-urban wildlife management strategy around the north side of the City of Winnipeg to improve hunter and public safety, and help control problem wildlife. Implementation of Phase 2 of the strategy, which will focus on the south and east side of the city, will be reviewed with local Rural Municipalities and considered for 2006.

- Manitoba Conservation Interlake Region continued work with livestock producers to ensure compliance with regulations. A new regulation is in place and an Environment Officer was assigned to focus on livestock issues. The new regulation applies to more livestock operations and manure storage facilities to further enhance protection of groundwater and surface water resources.

- Manitoba Conservation Eastern Region held several workshops in Whiteshell Provincial Park to instruct cottagers how to assess fire risk and ways to reduce the risk, on and around cottage lots. Similar presentations were made to the Whiteshell Cottagers Association executive and at the Whiteshell Cottagers Association Annual General Meeting. The best protection against loss, damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention.

- Manitoba Conservation Western Region conducted expanded Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in the white-tailed deer population of the extreme west and the border area adjacent to North Dakota and Minnesota.

- Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Parks Canada Agency completed the fourth year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management, which features expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. In 2004 bovine tuberculosis was detected in an elk in the Duck Mountain area, but not in cattle. This has implications for agriculture, wildlife management and human health.

- Manitoba Conservation Western Region continued to deliver the field implementation of a Bovine TB eradication strategy developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture and Food and Manitoba Conservation.

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch implemented under the Dutch Elm Disease program a basal application program in the Winnipeg buffer-zone in the RM of Ritchot. Treatments were conducted in close co-ordination with the City of Winnipeg, which applied treatments to similar high-density DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal treatments of these areas will result in a significant reduction in the spread of DED into the city.

- Manitoba Conservation Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch developed the Problem Black Bear Management Policy and Procedure directives. The policy and procedures will provide consistent direction to regional and district staff when handling or responding to problem black bear situations.

- Manitoba Conservation Pollution Prevention Branch participated in the planning of the final year of the program, "Operation CleanFarm", designed to collect and safely dispose of obsolete or

unwanted agricultural pesticides. All of the products were transported to Swan Hills, Alberta for high temperature incineration.

5. Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Interlake Region constructed additional fencing across the Riverton Sandy Bar beach to help protect nesting Piping Plovers (a species at risk) and also participated in monitoring of known Piping Plover habitats. Monitoring of Loggerhead Shrikes, also a species at risk, continued in the south Interlake. Small White Lady's-Slippers were recorded at three sites in the south Interlake and discussions were initiated with one of the landowners regarding protection of the site.

- The Eastern Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee coordinated the development and completion of a report providing recommendations on forest management activities in the winter range of the Owl Lake Herd. The committee also continued work on a number of data-gathering and information-exchange projects, including capture and monitoring of GPS and VHF radio equipped caribou, conducting lichen surveys, and the development and delivery of an Expert Workshop for Canadian woodland caribou practitioners as well as an associated Public Forum.

- Manitoba Conservation Parks and Natural Areas Branch worked on the designation of Manigotagan River Provincial Park to preserve the river's water quality and aquatic and shoreline habitats and provide a backcountry setting for activities such as canoeing and traditional cultural activities that depend on a largely undisturbed environment.

- Manitoba Conservation Parks and Natural Areas Branch were able to get designated the Little George Island Ecological Reserve, the Jennifer and Tom Shay Ecological Reserve and the Bell and Steeprock Canyons Protected Area in the Porcupine Provincial Forest.

6. Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and
b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Western Region implemented the Habitat Mitigation Program with Manitoba Highways and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation to facilitate compensation and mitigation for wetland losses associated with highway construction projects. The agreements for Provincial Trunk Highway (PTH) 16 and the twinning of PTH 1 were finalized.

- Manitoba Conservation and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 7,497 hectares of land, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted (13.1 million trees) with scarification to promote natural regeneration on the rest.

7. Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and

b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Information Technology Services continued work on the development of the web based internet map server to provide forest data for the National Forest Information System (NFIS). The system allows the public to find and review databases on Canada's forests and environmental conditions. Information will include harvesting information, reforestation, forest fires, and related biophysical and environmental indicators.

- Manitoba Conservation Survey Services continued to promote and advance the Canada-Wide Differential GPS Service. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications.

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch as part of the National Forestry Inventory Program, established 29 long term ecosystem monitoring plots across Manitoba's eco-zones to measure provincial, national, and international reporting requirements related to forest growth, sustainability, and climate change.

- Manitoba Conservation Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch conducted a survey of wildlife biologists, enforcement officers and agricultural specialists employed by governments across Canada and American states adjacent to the Canada – U.S.A. border. This study is part of a co-operative effort by Manitoba Conservation, Kansas State University and Saskatchewan Environment to determine the number, distribution, status and management of feral pigs in Canada and the northern tier of states.

- Manitoba Conservation Remote Sensing Centre in conjunction with the Forestry Branch and in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service-Earth Observation for Sustainable Development of Forests continued the forest land cover data for Manitoba using satellite data to meet core forest information needs of the Kyoto Protocol, the international Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Work commenced on the Taiga Shield and Hudson Bay Plain eco-zones.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

1. Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and

b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch has been able to utilize for the first time removed infected elm trees instead of destroying them by burning. A large amount of elm wood, mostly originating from the north Winnipeg buffer-zone, was made available to a Winnipeg company, which commercialized the material for industrial fuel.

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch's new public timber auction process continued with semi-annual Stumpage Based Auctions. These auctions are advertised and each auction establishes a minimum timber dues price that allows the industry an opportunity to bid based on its evaluation of the timber relative to the range of potential products and markets.

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry Branch introduced a new provincial Softwood Field Chip timber classification following the successful assessment of chipping operations in the Western Region. Procedures were established to measure un-merchantable and softwood smaller than provincial standards that are harvested as chips for the pulp and paper industry. Timber dues are adjusted appropriately for utilizing un-merchantable and small diameter softwood.

- Manitoba Conservation Pollution Prevention Branch assisted Manitoba Hydro to integrate water efficiency measures into their PowerSmart programs.

2. Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department would need to:

a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;
b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and
c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the department with regard to decisions affecting them.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Parks and Natural Areas Branch continued with public review of the draft management plan for the Hayes River. A summary report of the consultations was prepared and distributed to all participants. The plan was revised and a final review process was begun. Submission of the plan to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System will allow the Hayes River to be moved forward to full status as a Canadian Heritage River.

3. Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department would need to:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and
b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation takes a lead role in the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse which is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. A new interactive map server is being configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through their web portal.

4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department would need to:

a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and

b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation established the East Side Round Table, the East Side First Nation Council and the East Side Advisory Committee. The East Side Round Table was commissioned to conduct public meetings and bring forward recommendations towards a sustainable land use plan for the East Side Lake Winnipeg study area.

5. Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and

b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 Rs in society generally.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Red River Region Initiated a manure composting program for Assiniboia Downs in conjunction with a landscape company.

- Manitoba Conservation Pollution Prevention Branch continued work on the implementation of the National Electronics Stewardship Program, National Compost Quality Guidelines, and recovery of scrap metal from northern Manitoba and Nunavut. The first shipment of scrap metal were shipped by barge, rail and truck from Rankin Inlet to Selkirk, Manitoba. Clean-up of scrap metal in Gillam and Churchill was also initiated, as well as green procurement practices and policies for government.

- Manitoba Conservation Pollution Prevention Branch through the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund, continued to support local government development of regional waste management systems. One waste transfer project was supported and 30 other projects supported including six composting projects.

6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, a Department would need to:

a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

Examples:

- Manitoba Conservation Parks and Natural Areas Branch issued a scientific research permit to the Forestry Branch to conduct studies of spruce budworm in Lake Winnipegosis Salt Flats Ecological Reserve as part of a Forestry Canada study of the history of budworm outbreaks in the Prairies.

- Manitoba Conservation Forestry participated in a combined initiative with the City of Winnipeg, Coalition to Save the Elms and the University of Manitoba to conduct research to assess the integration of rapid removal into the Manitoba Dutch Elm Disease control program and to assess

environmentally friendlier and less persistent insecticides to replace the current pesticide used for basal application.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

1. Education, Training, and Awareness
To meet the intent of Goal #1, a department would need to ensure a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:
(a) increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
(b) expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

For 2004/05, the Department continued to focus on its procurement education and training needs and supported the development of procurement tools and checklists for staff use. The Department continued to adjust manuals and procedures to reflect sustainable development procurement guidelines, such as the Department's Contract Manual. The departmental staff involved in procurement must now ensure sustainability is noted with respect to all purchase requisitions submitted to Procurement Services Branch (TGS).

2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection
To meet the intent of Goal #2, a department would need to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:
(a) reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
(b) reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

The Department continued amendments to janitorial contracts in order to reduce toxic substance use and replace with environmentally friendly products only. All offices are now required to utilize recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges. Duplex copier equipment is required where volumes warrant.

3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions
To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department would need to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:
(a) reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
(b) as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

For 2004/05, the Department continued to utilize ethanol fuel and alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet toward targeted objectives.

4. Resource Conservation
To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department would need to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:
(a) reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
(b) within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

For 2004/05, the department continued SD procurement clauses for all contracts and tenders.

5. Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would need to ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

(a) increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;
(b) assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
(c) increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

For 2004/05, the department continued conducting Aboriginal Procurement Initiative information sessions with Branches. The department has been tracking its API activity since June 2003. The department also continued discussions through Manitoba Procurement Council respecting corporate responsibilities for environmental industries, small and CED businesses and Co-ops.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARIES

Table RE.1
Reconciliation Statement

DETAILS	2004-05 ESTIMATES
Printed Estimates of Expenditure 2004/05	$105,508.5
Allocation of Funds from:	
- Enabling Appropriation re: Internal Reform Workforce Adjustment and GSI	309.7
2004-05 ESTIMATE	$105,818.2

Table RE.2
Revenue Summary By Source

For the year ended March 31, 2005 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual 2003-04	Actual 2004-05	Increase (Decrease)		Actual 2004-05	Estimate 2004-05	Variance	Exp.
			OTHER REVENUE:				
0.0	199.9	199.9	Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	199.9	284.7	(84.8)	1
390.6	341.4	(49.2)	Environment Fees and Sundry	341.4	495.2	(153.8)	2
6,428.1	7,990.2	1,562.1	Forestry Fees and Sundry	7,990.2	8,179.8	(189.6)	
1,820.0	2,552.0	732.0	Land Information Sales and Fees	2,552.0	2,096.8	455.2	
5,739.4	6,428.3	688.9	Licence Sales by Vendors	6,428.3	6,678.2	(249.9)	
10,210.9	10,194.0	(16.9)	Parks Fees	10,194.0	10,042.6	151.4	
4,509.4	2,392.1	(2,117.3)	Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	2,392.1	1,132.4	1,259.7	3
54.1	96.5	42.4	Wildlife Sundry	96.5	74.0	22.5	4
299.0	222.1	(76.9)	Sundry	222.1	323.3	(101.3)	5
29,451.5	30,416.5	965.0	Subtotal	30,416.5	29,307.0	1,109.5	
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
151.0	200.2	49.2	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	200.2	151.0	49.2	6
151.0	200.2	49.2	Subtotal	200.2	151.0	49.2	
29,602.5	**30,616.7**	**1,014.2**	**Total**	**30,616.7**	**29,458.0**	**1,158.7**	
1.3	4.8		Sale of Government Assets	4.8	0.0	4.8	

Explanation Number:

1. Revenue was lower due to Clean Environment Commission Class 3 hearing costs billed directly to the Floodway Expansion Authority.
2. Revenue was lower due to a reduction in the number of exams administered and *Environment Act* licenses and pesticide Permit fees received.
3. Increased revenue is due to revenue generated by Manitoba's deployment in other provinces for fire suppression under the Mutual Aid Response System (MARS) Agreement, increased recoveries from Indian Affairs due to a new funding formula for fires fought on reserves, and an increase in commissary revenue.
4. Increase in revenue is due to the increased harvest of marten and an increase in wildlife permit revenue.
5. Timing of Transient Operator's Licenses revenue resulted in higher collections in 2003/04 instead of 2004/05 as anticipated.
6. Increase in revenue is due to receipt of additional funding in 2004/05 under the Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement for reimbursement of additional waterfowl damage claims paid.

Table RE.3
Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2005 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2004/05	Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
29.4	(a) Minister's Salary	28.8	28.9	(0.1)	
	(b) Executive Support				
506.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	538.2	488.8	49.4	
197.0	Other Expenditures	136.1	225.7	(89.6)	
	(c) Corporate Services				
820.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	816.6	718.9	97.7	
746.2	Other Expenditures	788.6	792.9	(4.3)	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,408.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,420.1	1,385.3	34.8	
399.8	Other Expenditures	336.1	357.3	(21.2)	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
989.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,049.3	1,054.6	(5.3)	
115.6	Other Expenditures	112.7	133.4	(20.7)	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,078.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,143.4	1,078.7	64.7	
107.6	Other Expenditures	104.7	100.6	4.1	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
267.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	278.2	387.5	(109.3)	
342.4	Other Expenditures	219.5	321.5	(102.0)	
7,009.0	**Total 12-1**	**6,972.3**	**7,074.1**	**(101.8)**	
	12-2 Conservation Support Services				
	(a) Computer Graphics				
453.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	400.6	518.4	(117.8)	
28.9	Other Expenditures	26.7	34.5	(7.8)	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,524.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,461.9	1,395.6	66.3	
451.9	Other Expenditures	451.9	495.6	(43.7)	
(1,570.7)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,707.0)	(1,449.0)	(258.0)	1
	(c) Distribution Centre				
307.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	336.9	365.2	(28.3)	
316.2	Other Expenditures	317.8	335.7	(17.9)	
(50.0)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(43.1)	(64.6)	21.5	
1,461.3	**Total 12-2**	**1,245.7**	**1,631.4**	**(385.7)**	
	12-3 Regional Operations				
	(a) Headquarters Operations				
1,851.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,770.0	1,697.0	73.0	
685.3	Other Expenditures	947.6	1,200.7	(253.1)	
365.6	Problem Wildlife Control	346.7	281.2	65.5	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,141.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,178.9	2,149.7	29.2	
727.7	Other Expenditures	718.7	743.8	(25.1)	

Estimate 2004/05	Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,403.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,368.4	2,285.5	82.9	
931.4	Other Expenditures	925.7	944.0	(18.3)	
	(d) Interlake Region				
3,073.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,061.8	3,131.7	(69.9)	
1,094.5	Other Expenditures	1,087.8	1,127.1	(39.3)	
	(e) Eastern Region				
3,132.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,164.6	3,149.6	15.0	
797.8	Other Expenditures	818.8	896.9	(78.1)	
	(f) Western Region				
4,458.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,557.4	4,463.2	94.2	
1,438.7	Other Expenditures	1,427.6	1,533.6	(106.0)	
	(g) Red River Region				
3,480.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,196.4	3,139.5	56.9	
789.1	Other Expenditures	872.0	969.9	(97.9)	
	(h) Fire Program				
5,274.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,360.5	5,225.4	135.1	
8,254.9	Other Expenditures	8,253.6	7,798.0	455.6	2
	(i) Livestock Operations Support				
424.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	243.7	276.0	(32.3)	
662.9	Other Expenditures	322.5	127.1	195.4	
	(j) Environment Operations				
726.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	650.0	565.2	84.8	
60.0	Other Expenditures	56.5	54.5	2.0	
42,773.9	**Total 12-3**	**42,329.2**	**41,759.6**	**569.6**	
	12-4 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
178.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	158.7	153.2	5.5	
381.4	Other Expenditures	321.2	300.8	20.4	
559.5	**Total 12-4A**	**479.9**	**454.0**	**25.9**	
	(b) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative				
225.0	Other Expenditures	221.1	208.2	12.9	
225.0	**Total 12-4B**	**221.1**	**208.2**	**12.9**	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
	(1) Administration				
439.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	533.2	351.1	182.1	
291.9	Other Expenditures	368.9	372.3	(3.4)	
191.2	Grant Assistance	191.2	191.2	0.0	
	(2) Planning and Development				
590.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	660.0	653.1	6.9	
125.7	Other Expenditures	113.2	144.6	(31.4)	
	(3) Park Districts				
325.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	301.8	356.4	(54.6)	
54.4	Other Expenditures	42.7	34.9	7.8	

Estimate 2004/05	Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(4) Park Operations and Maintenance				
11,458.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	11,480.6	11,326.0	154.6	
4,517.9	Other Expenditures	4,246.0	4,394.5	(148.5)	
	(5) Support Services				
481.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	502.7	486.0	16.7	
220.4	Other Expenditures	243.9	241.8	2.1	
	(6) Protected Areas				
197.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	219.8	182.1	37.7	
115.0	Other Expenditures	75.5	0.0	75.5	
19,010.1	**Total 12-4C**	**18,979.5**	**18,734.0**	**245.5**	
	(d) Air Quality Management				
274.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	286.5	273.8	12.7	
71.1	Other Expenditures	63.5	69.4	(5.9)	
2.8	Grant Assistance	1.5	1.6	(0.1)	
348.5	**Total 12-4D**	**351.5**	**344.8**	**6.7**	
	(e) Forestry				
	(1) Administration				
306.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	352.3	330.0	22.3	
322.5	Other Expenditures	405.7	369.7	36.0	
23.4	Grant Assistance	23.4	153.4	(130.0)	3
	(2) Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis				
945.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,035.8	1,147.2	(111.4)	4
720.4	Other Expenditures	426.8	637.3	(210.5)	5
	(3) Forest Health and Renewal				
1,644.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,339.3	2,230.4	108.9	
3,577.3	Other Expenditures	2,928.9	2,878.3	50.6	
(1,289.6)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,237.4)	(1,248.0)	10.6	
	(4) Forest Management and Development				
552.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	518.5	403.9	114.6	
567.6	Other Expenditures	76.4	64.0	12.4	
	(5) Sustainable Forestry Unit				
259.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	264.3	203.4	60.9	
200.0	Other Expenditures	186.2	32.1	154.1	
200.0	Grant Assistance	200.0	200.0	0.0	
1,185.0	(6) Forest Regeneration Stock	1,184.0	1,553.9	(369.9)	6
9,215.2	**Total 12-4E**	**8,704.2**	**8,955.6**	**(251.4)**	
	(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund				
50.0	Other Expenditures	50.0	50.0	0.0	
50.0	**Total 12-4F**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**0.0**	

Estimate 2004/05		Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(g)	Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
	(1)	Administration				
480.5		Salaries and Employee Benefits	521.8	593.3	(71.5)	
343.7		Other Expenditures	357.8	385.6	(27.8)	
207.0		Grant Assistance	207.0	207.0	0.0	
	(2)	Game, Fur, and Problem Wildlife Management				
637.0		Salaries and Employee Benefits	634.9	715.3	(80.4)	
286.6		Other Expenditures	263.8	251.8	12.0	
89.9		Grant Assistance	89.9	89.9	0.0	
	(3)	Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring				
744.3		Salaries and Employee Benefits	631.8	737.9	(106.1)	
72.7		Other Expenditures	68.4	92.1	(23.7)	
645.0		Grant Assistance	645.0	645.0	0.0	
	(4)	Biodiversity Conservation				
299.5		Salaries and Employee Benefits	316.9	297.5	19.4	
72.0		Other Expenditures	60.7	78.7	(18.0)	
350.4	(5)	Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	397.0	329.4	67.6	
4,228.6	**Total 12-4G**		**4,195.0**	**4,423.5**	**(228.5)**	
250.0	(h)	Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	**148.7**	**179.7**	**(31.0)**	
250.0	**Total 12-4H**		**148.7**	**179.7**	**(31.0)**	
	(i)	Pollution Prevention				
636.1		Salaries and Employee Benefits	646.7	629.7	17.0	
749.9		Other Expenditures	793.4	725.6	67.8	
1,386.0	**Total 12-4I**		**1,440.1**	**1,355.3**	**84.8**	
	(j)	Lands				
	(1)	Crown Lands Operations				
720.8		Salaries and Employee Benefits	719.0	709.5	9.5	
1,489.2		Other Expenditures	1,546.8	1,520.0	26.8	
	(2)	Crown Lands Registry				
253.0		Salaries and Employee Benefits	211.8	233.9	(22.1)	
127.7		Other Expenditures	121.9	150.0	(28.1)	
	(3)	Remote Sensing				
579.0		Salaries and Employee Benefits	600.4	553.1	47.3	
213.7		Other Expenditures	217.9	240.9	(23.0)	
(23.7)		Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Estimate 2004/05	Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
	(4) Land Mapping Services				
558.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	577.6	566.8	10.8	
65.5	Other Expenditures	64.4	73.0	(8.6)	
3,983.9	**Total 12-4J**	**4,059.8**	**4,047.2**	**12.6**	
39,256.8	**Total 12-4**	**38,629.8**	**38,752.3**	**(122.5)**	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
167.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	158.2	152.8	5.4	
67.1	Other Expenditures	39.6	52.3	(12.7)	
250.0	Northern Initiatives	85.9	35.4	50.5	
122.5	Grant Assistance	117.2	122.7	(5.5)	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
979.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	903.5	923.7	(20.2)	
954.5	Other Expenditures	1,145.3	1,208.8	(63.5)	
10.2	Grants Assistance	10.2	10.2	0.0	
	(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
962.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	990.3	912.3	78.0	
272.9	Other Expenditures	173.7	196.1	(22.4)	
	(d) Aboriginal Relations				
203.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	210.3	197.5	12.8	
51.0	Other Expenditures	41.6	49.0	(7.4)	
4,041.2	**Total 12-5**	**3,875.8**	**3,860.8**	**15.0**	
1,145.9	**12-6 International Institute for Sustainable Development**	1,031.3	1,104.4	(73.1)	
1,145.9	**Total 12-6**	**1,031.3**	**1,104.4**	**(73.1)**	
	12-7 Minor Capital Projects				
410.6	(a) Equipment	340.8	313.2	27.6	
120.0	(b) Critical Heritage Marshes	118.0	39.7	78.3	
3,694.3	(c) Park Facilities	4,318.1	2,525.0	1,793.1	7
4,224.9	**Total 12-7**	**4,776.9**	**2,877.9**	**1,899.0**	
	12-8 Costs Related to Capital Assets				
	(a) Desktop Services				
130.6	(1) Amortization Expense	128.6	116.1	12.5	
232.4	(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4	232.4	0.0	
	(b) General Assets				
1,246.6	(1) Amortization Expense	1,022.5	1,220.0	(197.7)	
433.8	(2) Interest Expense	347.6	369.6	(22.0)	
	(c) Infrastructure Assets				
1,911.0	(1) Amortization Expense	1,907.5	1,794.3	113.2	
1,950.8	(2) Interest Expense	1,752.1	1,702.5	49.6	
5,905.2	**Total 12-8**	**5,390.7**	**5,435.1**	**(44.4)**	
105,818.2	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**104,251.7**	**102,495.6**	**1,756.1**	

Estimate 2004/05	Appropriation	Actual 2004/05	Actual 2003/04	Increase (Decrease)	Explanation Number
PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
994.6	**B.4 Capital Investment –General Assets**	1,019.8	512.4	507.4	8
2,658.6	**B.13 Capital Investment –Infrastructure Assets**	2,144.4	583.1	1,561.4	9
3,653.2	**TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT**	**3,164.2**	**1,095.5**	2,068.8	

Expenditure Summary Explanations

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2005 with comparative figures for the previous year

1. The increase in recoveries is due to increased requests for priority services from Transportation and Government Services (Engineering & Construction Division) for road surveys and from Conservation (Programs Division) for cottage subdivision surveys.
2. The increase in expenditure for the Fire Program is due to higher 2004/05 fire program activity.
3. The decrease is due to payment of a grant to the Manitoba Forestry Association in 2003/04. In 2004/05, this grant was part of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, grants program.
4. The decrease is due to vacancies.
5. The decrease is due to the completion of an inventory project with Louisiana Pacific in 2003/04 and an inability to secure contractors for Volume sampling in 2004/05.
6. The increase in expenditures is mainly due to Cottaging and Camping Initiative park development costs.
7. The decrease in expenditures is due to an amendment to the Forest Management Licence Agreement with Louisiana-Pacific. In 2003/04, additional one-time expenditures were incurred in order to meet forest industry seedling obligations.
8. The increase in Capital Investment – General Assets expenditures is due to the Environment Management Systems (EMS) capital investment program costs.
9. The increase in Capital Investment – Infrastructure Assets is due to additional projects, namely the Big Whiteshell Lagoon, Falcon Lake town site pier development, and Birds Hill campground projects.

Table RE.4

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 2001 – March 31, 2005

	ACTUALS/*ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE									
	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005	
	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)
Administration and Finance	102.83	7,035.5	87.83	6,343.7	87.93	6,382.7	91.33	7,074.1	89.33	6,972.3
Conservation Support Services	56.00	1,692.9	51.00	1,358.4	50.00	1,361.5	48.00	1,631.4	45.00	1,245.7
Regional Operations	444.36	39,840.0	479.86	41,082.1	498.86	41,333.4	485.86	41,759.6	468.36	42,329.2
Conservation Programs	495.10	38,767.4	431.90	37,536.3	425.65	37,013.9	418.65	38,752.3	409.65	38,629.8
Environmental Stewardship	38.50	3,050.3	40.00	3368.1	37.00	3,336.2	36.00	3,860.8	34.00	3,875.8
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,145.9		1,060.0		1,034.9		1,104.4		1,031.3
Minor Capital Projects		4,432.2		4,124.8		4,109.3		2,877.9		4,776.9
Costs Related to Capital Assets		6,371.0		6,845.6		6,545.6		5,435.1		5,390.7
Total Appropriations	**1,136.79**	**102,335.2**	**1,090.59**	**101,719.0**	**1,099.34**	**101,117.5**	**1,079.84**	**102,495.6**	**1,046.34**	**104,251.7**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

PUBLICATIONS

Corporate Services

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

Operations

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting

Forestry

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

Geographic Names

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography**. (also available in French)

Parks and Natural Areas

Beach safety (bilingual)
Beach safety for groups (bilingual)
Birds Hill, Cedar Bog self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Nimowin self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Pine Ridge self-guiding trail
Camp Morton Provincial Park interpretive map
The camper's guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park interpretive map
Duck Mountain Provincial Park - Draft management plan
Fall camping in Manitoba
Family vacation cabins (bilingual)
Group use areas (bilingual)
Hecla/Grindstone, Grassy Narrows Marsh
Hecla/Grindstone, Hecla Village self-guiding trail
Junior naturalist and park explorer booklets
Manitoba 2004 Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service
The petroforms of Manitoba
Pinawa Dam, Old Pinawa self-guiding trail
Regular/boundary changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
River Road, Kennedy House
Spruce Woods, Spirit Sands self-guiding trail, Devils Punch Bowl hiking trail

Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Turtle Mountain, Wildlife self-guiding trail
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell, Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary

Sustainable Resource Management

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Black Bear Encounters, brochure
Black Bear Encounters, handout (summary of the brochure)
Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Management, brochure
Newman, K. Grassland Bird Monitoring at Manitoba Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration Project Sites
Manitoba 2004 Hunting Guide
Miller, A. Manitoba's 2003 Piping Plover Survey and Productivity Summary
Jones, G. & F. Phillips. Metal Concentrations in Surface Soils of Thompson, Manitoba, September 2001. Manitoba Conservation Report No. 03-01
Kowalchuk, M. Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory for Manitoba - update 2003
Foster, C., C. Hamel & E. Reimer. Occurrences of rare and uncommon calcareous wetland plants surveyed by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre in 2003. MS04-02
Hamel, C., C. Foster & E. Reimer. Rare Plant Surveys & Stewardship in the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn, including new and updated occurrences resulting from surveys conducted in 2003 by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre. MS04-01
Trapping Guide 2004/05

LEGISLATION

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205
The Crown Lands Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340
[except sections 7.2(2) to 7.6 and sections 6, 7, 10, 12(1), 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23 and 24 to 28 both inclusive, insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown Lands which may be designated by the Minister of Conservation as agricultural Crown Lands, and the Agricultural Crown Lands Grazing and Hay Permits Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 288/88) and Agricultural Crown Land Leases Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 168/2001)]
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12
The Dutch Elm Disease Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 107
The Ecological Reserves Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5
The Endangered Species Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111
The Environment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125
The Forest Act, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15
The International Peace Garden Act, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30
[except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80
The Provincial Parks Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90
[that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter P 94
The Property Tax and Insulation Assistance Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 143
[Part V, and section 1 and Part VI as they relate to subjects covered under Part V]
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5
The Surveys Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240
[Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270
[except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40
The Wildfires Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128
The Wildlife Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130
[except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140

As per Schedule "D", Order in Council No. 404/2004